



SEGA



SEGA
No.1 FOR
SATURN

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SATURN

M A G A Z I N E

ISSUE 10

AUGUST 96

ATHLETE KINGS

Limber up for the best
Olympic Games sim ever!

Forget Everything Else!

This is the **GREATEST** game of the year!

NIGHTS

REVIEWED!

It's a dream come true! Full review and eight -page feature inside!

**PLUS! BUG TOO! VIRTUA FIGHTER 3 ALIEN TRILOGY TOMB RAIDER TORICO
OLYMPIC FOOTBALL KEIO FLYING SQUADRON STARFIGHTER 3000 AND MORE!**

WIN!
A COPY OF NIGHTS
AND A 30 JOYDIAL!
SEE OUR COMPO
INSIDE!

VIRTUA FIGHTER KIDS

A new generation of fighters
explodes onto Saturn!



You have

Bikes, chains, clubs & brains

**ROAD
RASH**



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WIN A COPY OF NIGHTS AND THE 3D CONTROLLER!

06  

COVER STORY

NIGHTS

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It's here at last! We get to take apart the final version of NIGHTS! Quite frankly, this game will leave you completely breathless, which is why we've dedicated eight whole pages to tell you all about it! Easily the most impressive title of the year so far, this feature should display why this nightmare warrior has caused us many a sleepless night!

VF3 NEWS!
PAGE 96!



SHOWCASES

ATHLETE KINGS 42

Sega have finally decided to release their Saturn conversion of the coin-op Decathlete in the UK, and for a some change, the Saturn version remains exactly the same! Take your pick of competitor from all the participating countries, but watch out for the UK contender - he looks set to leave the competition standing!

VIRTUA FIGHTER KIDS 48

The Virtua fighter posse have gone pint-sized this month in this all-new kiddie version of the most popular fighting game on Saturn! Find out exactly what Shin looks like when he's squashed down to a fraction of his former size and discover the option that allows you to carry out the most complicated combos by simply hammering the Saturn ped's buttocks!

SEGA: THE ARCADE WINNERS 54

Most of Sega's coin-op titles are now making their way to Saturn, but there are a few that have slipped through the net over the years. We round up most of the big titles from Sega's vast arcade portfolio and honour the ones we demand to see on Saturn in the future!

TOMB RAIDER 58

Core have been responsible for some of the most innovative console games in the past, and their latest offering is no exception! Tomb Raider has just been signed up for release by Sega, and features some of the most stunning 3D ever seen on the Saturn! We take a look at the first playable version of the game!

ALIEN TRILOGY 62

After a wait of something like eleven months, the first playable version of Alien Trilogy is finally here! We take a trip down to developers Probe's headquarters for a first look at this brilliantly gory shoot 'em up! Plus, we get to quiz the programmers over some of those Saturn-only features!



54



58



62



LOADED'S THE CREAM AND I'M THE RUSSY



VOX



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SEGA SATURN NEWS

VERDICT? IT'S BRILLIANT!

Well, we're all pretty heavy-eyed at the moment. Even a magazine addiction playing NIGHTS. There's no doubt about it, this is about the most addictive game we've had in the office all year! In fact, when this first arrived, there was a huge crowd around the TV for hours and people were even standing on the tables to get a look at the game! Luckily, as we've played it so much, we're in the best position to tell you all about the ins and outs of each level, which is why we've dedicated eight pages to it later on in the issue! It's been a pretty good month for software all round really, with both AM's Athlete Kings and AM's Virtua Fighter Kids featured this month – the good news is that both of these titles will see a UK release later on in the year. More about that later on in the issue though – in the meantime, read on for details of how to win the very first UK copy of NIGHTS and a 3D controller!

Sam Hickman, Editor

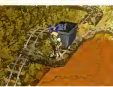


DARK SAVIOUR NEARS COMPLETION!

Dark Saviour is almost finished and although the text within the title is still in Japanese, it shouldn't be too long before a UK version reaches these shores! Sega were so impressed with the game that they have decided to sign it up for release themselves meaning that a UK release should be definitely on the cards. Created by Climax, Dark Saviour has been in development for over a year now and is probably the most ambitious RPG ever seen on the Saturn. Played from an isometric perspective, the game includes much more action than has been seen in previous RPGs on the Saturn such as Myntaris, and technically it's loads more impressive. For instance, there's transparency effects, impressive bosses, loads of nice 3D bits and a great storyline too – one which DOESN'T involve wandering around landscapes exterminating baddies. Basically you're stranded on a boat with a crew and a huge big monster. Unfortunately, the monster has escaped, leaving a trail of dead bodies all around the ship, although the monster itself is nowhere to be found. Obviously, it's your job to track down the monster and save all the people on the boat, which is why you've been decked out in a suit of armour and been given a pet bird to follow you around. We still haven't worked out the significance of the bird, but it's probably very important indeed.

In addition to the great graphics of the game, this is unique in that you can change the perspectives as you're playing, enabling you to see around blocks and revealing parts of the game that would otherwise be obscured.

The release of Dark Saviour will be a major event for Sega, as the title is so innovative – and it certainly unique in the fact that there's nothing like this on any system at the moment. We'll have a full showcase on the game for you next month, but in the meantime, here's some shots from the latest version for you to have a look at.





TORICO

The action adventure title has been largely unexplored on the Saturn, unlike the PC, where there's an avalanche of titles every month – and very popular they are too. Games like *D* have proved to be pretty successful on the Saturn, but have been criticised for not being long or innovative enough –

which we think is probably fair enough although *D* was pretty enjoyable. Anyway, Torico looks set to change the image of interactive movie style games forever, with an incredibly dark setting and very involving gameplay. In fact, although the game isn't out for another couple of months, the Japanese are already going mad about it, which can only mean that once translated, the title will be big over here too. Basically, the main aim of the game is to discover the mystery behind a very spooky Spanish town, which you somehow end up in after escaping from jail. Everyone in the town is incredibly weird, and the character you play ends up getting stabbed right at the beginning of the game, which leads to some even more strange encounters.

Anyway, Torico seems to be pushing the interactive adventure much further than anything has before, with puzzles to solve and action scenes as well as the usual wandering around alien environments looking at pretty objects. In fact, the entire adventure has a film feel to it, especially as most of the characters look like something out of a Quentin Tarantino film. Sega have signed up the title for release over here, although there's no firm release date at the moment. Look out for more info on this one, just as soon as we get our hands on a version with UK text.



WIN! A COPY OF NIGHTS AND A 3D CONTROLLER!

If you flipped the news section and read the NIGHTS short-story and review first, then you'll already know how brilliant the game is. In fact, you'll probably be wanting to know how you can get hold of a copy of your very own. Well, the simple fact is that you can't. And that's because the game isn't out officially until September 30th. Which depending on when you bought the magazine, means you'll have up to seven weeks to wait. But what if you're a loyal reader, there's a chance you could get your hands on a copy of this excellent game way before everyone else – but you'll only be in the running if you enter our competition. Bear in mind, there's only one winner, and that lucky person will be the first in the UK to own a copy of NIGHTS and a new push 3D controller. As ever, all you have to do is answer the question below, and the first correct entry out of the bag on the closing date will receive the prize, so please don't call us up asking if you've won – if you have we'll contact you. Anyway, here's the question...

What was the name of the character in Nightmares on Elm Street called?

Send your answer on a postcard to: I'M FRIGHTENED, SEGA, SATURN MAGAZINE, PO BOX COURT, 30-32 HARRINGTON LANE, LONDON EC6A 3UE. To enter for us to get the prize out in time, the closing date for this competition will be 20th August, so be sure to get your entries in before then.



IF YOUR GONNA WEAR PANTISS MAKE SURE THEY BE LOADED



IF YOUR GONNA WEAR PANTISS MAKE SURE THEY BE LOADED



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My name is Jim, I want to be your friend. Will you be my friend? That's you.



GET YOUR WORMS OUT...AGAIN

Earthworm Jim enjoyed an amazing run of success on the Megadrive, mainly due to its innocentive trickery and a wild sense of humour. Owners of a Saturn-only version were flying around a couple of months ago, but it seems this version of EWJ will be released across all formats in the coming months. The eventual publisher is likely to be Virgin, but even they have remained uncharacteristically tight-lipped over the title.

Anyway, from what we saw of the title at the E3 show, the Saturn version (in fact all the past versions) is not actually all that different from the 16-bit version, which is a bit disappointing really when you think about what could have been done with the game. Even so, anyone who missed out on the original game because they'd already bought a Saturn will no doubt jump at the chance to get hold of this one - it's certainly excellent fun even though it's not exactly pushing the Saturn's technical capabilities. A nice stop gap until we get to see some 3D product from Virgin.



BOMBS AWAY!

Bombberman coming to Saturn? And with any luck, he'll be coming to the UK! The Saturn version of the game is already complete and although it hasn't been signed up for release in this country yet, it's been rumoured that Sega will sign the game up for release under their own name.

Bombberman has always been extremely popular on console, and this version should be no exception either - especially since it incorporates a two player cartoon bfg, it's hard to imagine two people playing Bombberman at once, but believe us this will be absolutely brilliant!

Another bonus point for the title is the fact that it will only be released on the Saturn - you won't find developers Hudsonsoft porting this across to the PlayStation! There's no specific release date for the title yet, although as if it isn't finished it's thought that it could be on the shelves within a couple of months. We'll keep you posted!



SEE THE CROW!

This one has been in development for so long that almost everyone has forgotten that the film ever existed. Every one that is except for Action who are determined to get the game out on the shelves by early Autumn. Apparently the title will be in with the second Crow movie which will be released this summer (government info) and will take the form of a 3D coin hit game, where the player can fight up to four opponents at any one time. This is another title that is currently unplayable at the moment, but a video of the game was up and running at the E3 show. The verdict? Well, if this ones going to be a hit, the programmers still have a lot of work left to do. More soon.

I GAME, I SAW,...

As revealed by SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE in our last issue, the Command and Conquer will be released on the Saturn sometime later in the year, with a whopping six month lead over the PlayStation version, which is unlikely to be released at all this year.

Agreeing last month, we brought you news of the conversion, but no actual Saturn screenshots. But this month we've managed to get hold of a bona fide Saturn shot. As you can see, the two versions (Saturn and PC) are practically identical and work on the Saturn version is starting ahead with the game currently standing at around 80% complete.

This title is going to be absolutely massive come December and has won many awards from the PC community for its excellent gameplay. It'll be a sure fire hit with all strategy fans and is sure to win hearts of other converts, too.



BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO CHARTS

TOP TEN VIDEO GAMES

1. FORTRESS OF SOULS
2. STREET FIGHTER 31
3. MALLORCA
4. LOST KING
5. THE FINAL
6. THE MARY
7. REPTIL
8. THE KING
9. BATTLE AND THE MOUNTAIN KING
10. ICE

TOP TEN RENTAL

1. THE KING
2. THE KING OF THE MOUNTAIN KING
3. THE KING
4. THE KING
5. THE KING
6. THE KING
7. THE KING
8. THE KING
9. THE KING
10. THE KING



AM2 UNVEIL NEW VF3 CHARACTER!

Last month, AM2 released details on another character that will appear in the awesome Virtua Fighter 3. Known as Taka Anash, this huge sumo wrestler will prove to be more than a match for the other competitors in the game, and this addition to the title means that there's two new characters to look forward to in VF3 (the other one being Ace for more news on VF3, turn to page 56 now!



STWANGE
VFWY
STWANGE



FVANK



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GET YOUR ORDERS IN!

Sega's new Analogue Joypad will be on sale at the same time as NIGHTS, which at the moment is scheduled for a September 3 release. A package deal containing both the game and the Joypad is thought to be going on sale for £59.99, and a standalone for £34.99. Demand for the add-on is likely to be very high, so if you want to be sure to get your very own pad, make sure you order one just as soon as you can.

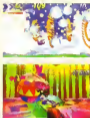


INTERACTIVE MOVIES ARE BACK!

Interactive movies have been a bit thin on the ground since the "Double Switch" days of the Mega-CD, but they've always been pretty popular in the UK, which is no doubt the reason why SegaSoft (they of Bug Tool and 3 Dirty Swears fame) have decided to create an all new interactive movie adventure for the Saturn.

Entitled Sacred Pools, the main thread of the story involves a very sparsely clothed young woman, who is the underbelly of the carred pool. She has lots of tattoos around all the time and looks really hard.

Although development on the title has only just begun, we have seen an early version of the game and the standard of the FMV is very high, although we haven't actually had a chance to play it yet. This will definitely be released in the UK, and although no release date has been confirmed at the moment, the title is likely to be on the shelves in the early Autumn. Look out for a preview soon!

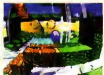


£59.99
FOR JOYPAD
AND GAME



MORE SONIC!

The new Sonic game was unveiled to thousands of people at the recent E3 show but since then, the game, along with its creators, seems to have gone into Adambation, with no new versions of the title arriving at the moment. The reason for this is probably that the programmers would so hard to get the E3 version together and it will be some time before any new versions are available. However, Sonic X Zone will still be out by Christmas and you can expect to see extensive coverage of the title coming up in the next couple of months. Anyway here's a few extra pictures that we didn't manage to get into the last issue - the pictures are taken from a video so they aren't as high quality as you'd expect to get from the actual game. But, Sonic X Zone still looks fantastic, and when the new versions do finally arrive, it's likely that there will be loads more images like this one to be found in the game! Stay tuned for more info!



LOADS OF NEW TITLES

BMG have just announced their Autumn/Winter line up, and among the vast amount of stuff on offer is a fair few Saturn titles. And here they are:



TARANTULA

Sort of a shoot 'em up but with a big deadly spider instead of a submarine or something. Pit your creepy crawly against load of other early insects and see who comes out on top. Our bet, of course, is on the big nasty spider!



TANK

Obviously this is a game about a tank. Take your tank around various urban environments and smack the living daylight's out of just about everything. The graphics are already looking very sophisticated on this one, although it's still pretty early in development. Move as soon as we can get anything on the title.



FIRE AND KLONDIKE

Guide these two groovers through various scenes in their own psychedelic version of the world at large. It's a sort of arcade adventure but there's a few other styles in there too. Ignore the purple foam and big pink shades - this could be big although there's not much to see on the title just yet!



YOU LAUGH YOU DIE

CAP N WANDS



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ON PLAYSTATION AND SATURN

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HMV CHARTS		
Week ending April 29th, 1995		
	Title	By
1	Baku Baku Animal	Sega
2	Guardian Heroes	Sega
3	Earthworm Jim '95	Virgin
4	WrestleMania	Acclaim
5	Virtua Cop	Sega
6	Virtua Open Tennis	Acclaim
7	Sega Rally	Sega
8	FWA '95	EA
9	X-Men: Children of the Atom	Acclaim
10	StreetFighter Alpha	Virgin

SATURN MAGAZINE CHARTS		
	Title	By
1	WrestleMania	Acclaim
2	Virtua Fighter Kids	Sega
3	Blade Kings	Sega
4	Baku Baku Animal	Sega
5	Guardian Heroes	Sega
6	Sega Rally	Sega
7	Baku Baku Animal	Sega
8	StreetFighter Alpha	Virgin
9	Darkstalkers	Virgin
10	Euro '95	Sega

READER CHARTS		
	Title	By
1	Euro '95	Sega
2	Baku Baku Animal	Sega
3	Virtua Fighter 2	Sega
4	StreetFighter Alpha	Virgin
5	X-Men: Children of the Atom	Acclaim
6	D	Acclaim
7	Virtua Cop	Sega
8	Sega Rally	Sega
9	Guardian Heroes	Sega
10	Passer Dragon Zoni	Sega

Send in your names, names of games, & a game to win the big prize!

If you would like to see your chart featured, send in your top ten to **READER CHARTS**, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, PRIORITY COURIER, 30-32 FARRINGDON LANE, LONDON EC4A 3DF. Anyone who has their charts printed will receive a game for their troubles!

WEAR A SILLY HAT

Following just about every other major software publisher, Sega are sponsoring their very own festival this summer, which will take place between 2-4 August. The Earth Energy Music Festival will be held at Reddington park, East Croydon, and has three separate days for Jam, Dance and Soul. Featuring names such as Courtney Pine, Mica Paris, and Missy Misdemeanor, plus dance acts Orbital, Jah Wobble, DJ Baboo, DJ Rap and Fabio, with food and bars, wind powered margarines and of course, interactive entertainment from Sega, should be one of the biggest festival events of late summer.

Tickets cost an arm and a leg to the average guy on the street, but we have three pairs of tickets to give away to the first readers who answer this question correctly.

Q: Which famous English festival was NOT held this year?

Answers to **PROUD IN THE REIDS**, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, PRIORITY COURIER, 30-32 FARRINGDON LANE, LONDON EC4A 3DF. The first correct entries to reach our offices will receive the tickets.

If you want to buy tickets for the event, call Ticketmaster on (077) 244 4444

CHEER UP!

Last issue we announced that Philips will be bringing their back catalogue of titles to the Saturn in the near future. However, they also have a bunch of new games up for release over the next year too. Down in the Dumps is a point and click adventure starring a family of aliens who are about as big as a thumbnail. They decide to take a holiday on Earth, but find that things aren't quite what they're cracked up to be - in fact, they get into all sorts of scrapes.

It's won't be out until next year, but we've already seen a demo of the title (see PC only) - here's a few character sketches until we can get hold of some proper pics





EVERY NIGHT IT'S THE
SAME ROUTINE.

EVERY NIGHT, BEFORE I GO TO BED, I PUT
OXY MEDICATED CREAM ON MY FACE.
IT WORKS WHILE I SLEEP, UNBLOCKING MY
PORES. AND BECAUSE I USE IT EVERY NIGHT
IT KEEPS THEM CLEAR, **HELPING TO PREVENT
SPOTS AND BLACKHEADS.** OK, SO I'M A ROUTINE
FREAK. BUT I'M NOT A SPOTTY ROUTINE FREAK.

SPOTS? OXYCUTE 'EM WITH OXY 10!



OXY 10 "TREATMENT" FOR SPOTS CONTAINS BENZOYL PEROXIDE. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. OXY AND OXYCUTE "10" ARE TRADE MARKS.

COMING SOON



RAYMAN 2

When Rayman was released almost a year ago, there wasn't much in the way of platform games available for the Saturn. In fact, there still isn't. Not even so, Rayman still received a rather stern reception from the games press, probably because despite looking the part, the gameplay remained distinctly 2D. Luckily that's all about to change for the sequel, with Rayman making much more of an effort for his second adventure.

So, while the sequel is still a platformer, there's quite a lot that's new for this little goblin-type guy. For example, much more use is made of 3D than in the first title and the action is far more fast paced than before. On a first playtest, this seemed to be much more in depth than before and dare we say it, actually seemed fun! This is another one due for a late Autumn release, although it's already in a fairly advanced state - expect to see a preview next month.



It looks really good, even at this early stage. Here's one more.



STREET RACER

In some ways, Street Racer on the Megadrive was the Sega answer to Marlokart. It was really fast, had loads of wacky cartoon characters and even had a four player split screen option. There was certainly nothing else like it on the 16-bit machine.

There's nothing else like it on the Saturn at the moment either - especially when you consider that Ubisoft are planning to incorporate an eight player split-screen option into the Saturn version of events. Now that's what we call ambitious. The screen will be split into eight horizontal strips, and will need the use of a Sega tap to get it players on screen at once - from these screenshots, it certainly looks like it will be very chaotic!

As for the rest of the game, the 3D is much improved over the 32bit version and the graphics are already looking very nice indeed. With any luck this should be a welcome addition to the Saturn's partly portfolio of racing games, and it's probably the first humorous take on the



Ray! A modest improvement over the 16-bit version, isn't it?



As you can see, there's loads more monsters in the second game than there was in the first, which should mean that there's loads more depth in the game too. Should it well if it stays on course.

ECOLOGY DEPARTMENT



BY UBISOFT

RELEASE TBA

game that the Saturn's seen. Now it will stand up to Codemaster's excellent Micro Machines 3 is anyone's guess, but at the moment it's certainly looking like it will be a high profile title. More in a couple of months



COMING SOON

SPACE JAM

Well, what else would you expect from the company that brought you the "Jam" games? Yep, Acclaim are definitely determined to make the most of this stretched-to-the-limit license, and this time they're teaming up top basketball players with Warner Brother cartoon characters to make a "wacky" basketball sim.

Actually, there's a bit more to it than that. Space Jam is also set to be one of the year's biggest movies (in the States at least), starring Magic Johnson, loads of other NBA stars and all the Looney Tunes classic characters. The general theme of the film, as you would imagine, is to create the best basketball team of all time in a most hilarious manner. And as far as the game goes, it probably means that you get to do all sorts of things with the players that you can't do in real basketball - producing mallots, bashing people over the head, that sort of thing.

Anyway, although there's not much to see on this one at the moment (development is ongoing along at a very swift rate and should even be ready for preview next month), all being well, of course.



BY ACCLAIM RELEASED TRA



MK 1&2 DUO

BY ACCLAIM RELEASED TRA

MK 1



MK 2



Well, you've got to hand it to them. They sure know how to make the most out of a license. Yep, we've seen Mortal Kombat 1&2 on just about every machine known to man, but you know what? We've never seen both of them, together at once. Now why didn't anyone think of that before? Oh, that's exactly what Acclaim have done here in this double-the-gameplay-half-the-price package. Not at all a cash-in, simply a chance for all those Saturn owners who missed out on the first two Mortal Kombat's to get a look at what it was like in the old days.

With arcade-perfect graphics on both of the versions and all the secret bits and pieces included, this is sure to be a hit with all the complete die-hard S&K fans out there, although others may be a bit sniffed by it - especially when they can go out and buy MK's for the same price. As Acclaim already have the rights for the first two games it shouldn't take them too long to convert the titles to Saturn, which hopefully means the double pack will be out on the shelves by the end of summer. Look out for the forthcoming review.



WATERWORLD

BY OCEAN RELEASED TRA

To most people, Waterworld is the movie known only for its over the top extravagance and budget-breaking caper drama. Oh, and for Kevin Costner's strange job things too. But, despite being one of last year's most high profile films, the usual temptation is to rush out a game of the film was passed over, and Ocean, who had bought the license when the film was in development, began think about creating their own version of events.

One year later and they're still going. The original project was destined for the Megadrive but once the Saturn was released, they decided to develop for the superior machine instead. Currently around 90% complete, the project should be finished by Autumn, and should be on the shelves in the UK by early October.

The game itself follows the Waterworld theme, with you taking charge of your very own battleship and charging around a vast expanse of water. Obviously, the main aim is to blow the hell out of everything that moves and keep your own ship out of trouble. At the moment, though, it's difficult to see how this is going to work as the version we saw had no enemies programmed into it and was only running on one level. However, there should be much more progress made on this title in the very near future, as now the basic engine of the game has been programmed in, it's easier to complete the rest of the levels.

Anyway, provided the gameplay is up to scratch, this should prove popular amongst shoot 'em-up fans. More news as it releases in the Autumn.



Waterworld (TM) © Oceanic Publishers
A LIFE/INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS



**"ONCE I'D
OPENED
a Halifax
ACCOUNT
I WENT
absolutely
MAD"**

Make a statement. Declare your independence! A Halifax current account is all about freedom and spontaneity. With over 8,500 cash machines at your disposal, you can get to your money and spend it how you like, when you like. Interested? You should be.

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go mad, open a Halifax current account.



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BLAM! MACHINEHEAD

Babylon's Burning!
And only you can save the day!



PROGRAMMER	GAME STYLE	RELEASE DATE
SOFT	Shoot 'em up	September 1998
1/20th	Original title	
170-6 INT LINE	Play Station, Sega Saturn, PC	



We previewed Blam! Machinehead a couple of months back, stupidly thinking that it would be out on the shelves a few months later. How stupid we were to listen to these evil programmers who always lie about when their games will be finished. If they'd been telling the truth, they would have said that for the last few months all they'd been doing was playing football down the park, eating ice lollies and getting tanned. But I suppose that would have got them in trouble with their bosses.

Anyway the point of all this is that Blam! still isn't finished and probably won't be out until around September. This means that in addition to finishing the original code, the programmers have had time to add a few little extras into the game (and, take a few out that they thought weren't working quite properly).

For anyone who didn't get to see the preview the first time around, Blam! Machinehead is a 3D blaster quite similar to Furzer Dragon, a script that instead of riding a big scary drag on, you get to ride a bomb instead. And there is actually a good reason for this - a professor, in an attempt to save the world from a mad scientist, has created a bomb which will blow all evil mutants off the face of the earth. Unfortunately, while collecting the help of a fellow professor she has somehow man-

aged to get herself strapped to her own bomb and is now whizzing about all over the place, in dire need of rescue. In fact, unless she finds the evil man behind the creation of all the mutants, the bomb will



explode and the only thing hope the entire Earth has will cease to exist. Anyway, as you're probably guessed by now you take on the role of professor Kimberly Stride. She doesn't wear very many clothes for a scientist type, but she does have good intentions. Her ultimate goal is to reach and destroy the huge evil computer **an**human known as the machinehead. The game takes place on a much devastated earth where huge mutant spiders roam around barren land scapes and several human beings are very thin on the ground.

The actual gameplay, although taking a standard first person perspective shoot 'em up view involves quite a heavy amount of strategy. To complete each level you'll have to fulfil very specific missions on objectives, such as releasing a train from a station (you'll get to see it moving around the level) so that the power can be restored to an electricity generator. There's also keys dotted around each level, the collection of which will allow you to access new terrain; it's also essential to collect all of these if you want to get through to the next level. Although the ultimate aim is to reset Tasy "Habby" Defresco and save the world, sub missions must be completed simply to year on professor Ovide doesn't decide to detonate the bomb that you're riding on.



he's a bit of a prevent you see, and after rejecting his affections he's decided that he might want to kill you instead. Not yay, eh?

Obviously, to meet all the specific mission objectives the presence of some pretty awesome firepower will be required. Luckily, more powerful weapons can be picked up as you progress through the levels, and even at this incomplete stage, some of the weapon effects are absolutely stunning. For instance, there's a "storm" weapon that can be picked up which produces a lightning storm and kills everything in its vicinity. The actual effects are very realistic, and really make the most of the Saturn's capabilities - there's even going to be some translucent effects in the finished version.

At the moment, there's only a couple of levels of the game that are actually playable, but Core are hoping to have the game finished within the next month or so. This should hopefully mean that we get the game in for review next month. Well, that's what they reckon anyway.





It might look like a funbike, but it is in fact a bike that our heroine is regrettably stuck to.



The in-game action is viewed from a first-person perspective, with your two camera targets clearly visible.



HE IS THE MAN...

The guy behind all the evil goings on is one Tony "Flabby" Defresco. After working for research company Sencilar for some years, he decides to use their research for his own ends. While Sencilar has developed micro machines to complete everyday tasks, Defresco used them on himself, to develop his own body - in a vain attempt to attract the laydees. Unfortunately this didn't work, and the DNA began to mutate. Eventually, Tony became even more twisted and generated a virus that would wipe out everything on the planet. Except for him, of course. After he let it loose, almost everything on the planet was destroyed. But Tony began to reanimate things and all the beings left on the earth began to have a huge fight, obviously making it a very dangerous place to be. As you can imagine, that's why scientist Kimberly Stride wants the carnage to stop. That's why she's built a huge bomb to, er, blow everything away.



Good. Bad? Shaky, shaky...err...



Whenever the world is threatened you can bet a mad scientist is involved somewhere.



LEVEL ONE MISSIONS

Remember we were saying that there's loads of different tasks to complete before each level is finished? Well, for example, in level one there's three different areas to explore, each infested with plenty of spider cocoons. In this mission, there's key puzzles to solve, trains to follow, trains to get ahead of, cars on a destroy, areas of land to rebuild, giant spider webs to dodge and a huge queen spider to annihilate. Winkey! And that's just the first level!



NBA ACTION



Bored with footie? Then why not dye your hair pink and play basketball instead!



PUBLISHER	GAME STYLE	RELEASE DATE
SEGA	Sports	August
DEVELOPER	Original Title	
BMG	NBA Jam	
ITR & RPT DATE	RAT	REV
	Jan 11, 1998	Jan 11, 1998

Despite a pretty low profile, basketball is becoming increasingly popular in the UK. It's going to take us a while before we get anywhere near the standards of all the US teenagers seen on TV, but hey, when they are crap at sport, take part in exercise of the videogame kind! You can always pretend that you're just learning the rules.

Actually, there's already been a fair few basketball offerings on the Saturn, and one in particular, NBA Jam Tournament Edition was just about as good as it gets on console. But luckily if you're into basketball then this summer is going to be absolutely great for you, because there's loads more basketball sims on the way. However, there's never been one developed by Sega before now has there!

“...this is a way more realistic interpretation of basketball than say, NBA Jam or NBA Jam Tournament Edition...”

Ahabata: Well, not on Saturn anyway (until now obviously).

Sega's first Saturn basketball effort is a rather fancy little number that goes by the name of NBA Action.

Featuring all the players and teams from the real NBA tournaments, apparently it will make you "feel the rush as the gameplay will bring you into the surreal world of the NBA". Critics NBA Jam II certainly wasn't anything like that. Plus, as well as all the right teams and everything, certain players have their own signature moves which can make for some spectacular play



once you learn how to pull the moves off. Also, the game is quite unique in that the players' attributes change as the game is being played - depending on the player's performance. This means that if you begin with the best team but



lose every game, your players' statistics may drop as the games progress. Which obviously makes this more realistic than other basketball sims available.

The version shown here is almost 100% complete, with very few changes to be made before it actually goes on sale. And, on a first playtest, it does seem to play very smoothly, although it has to be said that this is a way more realistic representation of basketball than say NBA Jam. You'll see none of the "big head" trickery here - it's just 100% realism all the way down the line which is probably loads better if you're into basketball in real life, even if it does mean that there's a little less shtet in the proceedings.

As NBA Action is practically finished, it's likely that it will make it out on to the shelves by the end of August. Which is just about the same time that BMG will have their own version of events, Slam and Jam (reviewed this issue) in the shops. Which one will take the majority of the basketball fans' cashola remains to be seen, but our money's on this one (look out for the review next month).



This might look a bit complicated, but all it's showing is the path that the ball took.



Look! These are the actual players from real basketball. With their own real names!



As you can see, it's complete realism all the way.

BASKETBALL'S BIG FOUR

There's plenty of basketball games on the way this year, so which one do you choose? If you're into the game? Well, believe you make any prioritizing decisions, consider the choices.

NBA ACTION: Speaks for itself really, doesn't it. After all, we have dedicated two whole pages to the game. As its main aim is to go far realism, NBA Action doesn't have all the arcadey bits found in games such as NBA TE, but it's still pretty fast-paced and has the added bonus of being released under the Sega Sports label.

SLAM 'N' JAM: BMC's offering is reinvented in his very issue on page 78. It's more arcadey in style, but the gameplay is a bit thin in places and overall it may be a bit disjointed. However, if you're not too fussed about the finer points of basketball and just want to play a game, then this could be the one for you.

SPACE JAM: One for people who aren't bothered about basketball at all and want to play something that's just fun. And let's face it, with characters such as Bugs Bunny leading the team, you couldn't really expect this to be anything but a humorous take on the game. We've played an early version of the title and so far, it's looking pretty good - a bit like NBA Jam II but with funnier graphics.

NBA JAM EXTREME: Without a doubt, the fireworks of the three, although there's still nothing to be seen on the game yet. Obviously it's going to be arcade perfect, but it will also include a variety of new camera angles and snazzy up graphics. Easily the most popular game of its type in the arcade, this is bound to be a massive hit when it's released on Saturn sometime in late Autumn.



All the players look at it now as this very tall man shoots a basket.



Like dancing to part of the fun (game).



...to make it through the defences, and makes an effort on the "hoop".



...is it going in or not? A very less instant for all the players involved.



...it's not what a hero, the point here it is to hit, they should give the a medal or something.



There's loads of different angles to view the action from - some of them are pretty realistic. Like this one. However, you can't chop and change them at random (well, not when they're shooting).

HE BECOMES REAL BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!

The problem with basketball games is that despite looking all the real players along with their stats and everything, they don't actually look much like their real-life counterparts. But, that's all set to change in NBA Action. Each player has their real face digitized and when the game's in "real" mode, the camera zooms in on the supernatural stars to reveal the real-life players from Sega's 3rd line. So you'll be able to see the players in quite a handy if you fancy watching them go with the players on the field.



CHAOS CONTROL

Help! The Martians are on to us!
They're going to attack!

PUBLISHER	GAME STYLE	RELEASE DATE
SEGA	Third-person	December
GENRES	Original title	
THE A-10Y GAME	Virus Cop mixed with Star Wars Jedi	



The year is 3075, and interplanetary forces are at war. And this isn't some minor disagreement type of war. Nope, this is fully-blown, destroy the entire planet kind of war. Some planets have already had their entire populations wiped out—for instance, Pluto and Mars, once supporting thriving communities, are now almost completely barren. All the people have been wiped out, and the one lone survivor has fled in search of safety. That person is Jessica Danhill, and it's up to you to help her out. As First Lieutenant of the Area Interception squad, she was there to see all

one and finally come face to face with the grand commander.

As you've probably gathered from this ruthless storyline, Chaos Control is a pure shoot 'em up, with a first person perspective, explosives galore and a vast array of weaponry. However, the most appealing feature to the title is that it uses the Virtua Gunz—in fact it's the first title that utilizes the Virtua Gunz—in fact it's the first title that utilizes the Virtua Gunz—since Sega's own Virtua Cop! This alone should ensure it proves popular with shoot 'em up fans, although we'll be reserving our judgement on the title until next month, when we'll be reviewing the final version of the game. Catch our review then!



“...this isn't some minor disagreement type of war. Nope, this is a fully blown, destroy the entire planet kind of war. Some planets have already had their entire populations wiped out...”

of the action that took place in the war on Mars and amazingly, she survived and escaped to the nearest Lunar Base. However, rather than being let off lightly, she's been signed up for the next conflict, along with the 10th Squadron of the silver dragons. And, the like blood is that this will be the last conflict ever—the Redd Khan armada has returned to the mother ship for refueling and is about to launch an attack on what's left of the universe.

Luckily for you, your first mission is here on Earth, where you must free the streets of Manhattan from alien attack. Then it's out into orbit where you'll face the enemy in full as they prepare to take over the inter universal defense system. The only way to stop these ruthless enemies is to hunt them down, one by



Hey there! It's the Virtua Gunz gun—and you can use it in Chaos Control as well.



This is one of the interesting bits from your next... and kill!





KEIO FLYING SQUADRON

Cute bunny girls flying across a war-torn Japan? Yoiks! It's *Keio Flying Squadron!*

DEVELOPER	GAME STYLE	RELEASE DATE
YUJI	Shoot 'em up	September/October
PLATFORM	WII U PLAYING SQUADRON ON THE WII U AND 3DS	
WORTH A TRY GAME	IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE ANYTHING ELSE IN SEGA	



Videogames by their very nature are always a bit bizarre. Who remembers Dynamite Headdy who could relocate his head and chuck it at enemies? And what about NINININ? He's a creature with the ability to fight nightmares on behalf of little children. Now, there's no denying that's pretty strange. Oh, and don't forget all those edgy Japanese Mad Max games. But we're not even going to talk about them because they're rude.

“ All of these elements combine to make this a compelling title that has the most fun Japanese graphics we've seen all year. ”

However, despite the tendency to always err on the surreal side, once in a while there's a videogame that is sooo weird we don't know quite what to make of it. *Keio Squadron* is a bit like that. Although it is essentially a platform game and an easy one at that, there's a load of very, very bizarre

elements throughout the game. But I suppose that's because this is a game that spends a lot of time in Japan's folk period, and the designers have gone a bit mad, so the backgrounds are all wash colors and made of the moai's really, really big. Kind of like Alice in Wonderland. And who's the hero in the adventure? Well, it's a little girl dressed in a rabbit costume who fights the enemy with

the aid of her pink polka-dot umbrella. Who else?

Anyway, if you're a bit of a Sega loyalist you may remember *Keio* from when it was released on the Mega-CD around three years ago. In fact, the 16-bit version was surprisingly similar in concept with the action alternating between platform levels and side-scrolling shoot 'em up bits. The graphics, while similar in character and style, are much improved over the 16-bit version with intricate backgrounds and huge, huge bosses. In fact, the bosses in *Keio* are probably the best thing in the whole game—there's gigantic samurai woodies, psychedelic tea servers, even huge crab monsters! And while they're not exactly difficult to defeat, it's still really really good fun. This is also thanks in no small way to *Keio*'s vast array of weaponry—both little pink umbrella-like oversized mallets that she whips out and launches enemies over the head with incidentally when she does this, her expression changes from butler wouldn't it melt to something akin to Minnie the Mouse. All of these elements combine to make this a compelling, if a little simple title that has the most fun Japanese graphics we've seen all year.

If you're the sort of person that gets fed up with standard platform action after a while, you needn't worry too much, because there's flying levels to this game too. In addition to fighting the evil army that's attempting to invade Japan, *Keio* also has a jet dragon. Spot this jet through the airborne levels. Spot this jet, and launch missiles and... well, it's actually pretty handy in the destruction department. Which incidentally is just as handy as well when you're up against the likes of the evil and stranded *Keio* gun astronauts.

The weapon of *Keio* that we've played is actually complete and all being well, the trio will begin their shelves by mid-August. As well as playing platform fans should attract anyone who's even the slightest bit interested in pure Japanese games. Oh, and anyone who's mad will like it too.



This is one of the earlier levels in the title, and just like in real life, you only get over on things.



The starts (level) will attempt to take this out of you as you fly through this level. Stay close to the top of the screen.

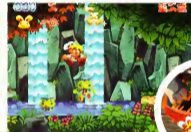


FLY, LITTLE ONE!

Here's one of the flying levels. While they're not exactly the most challenging levels in the game, they're very cute and cuddly. Plus you get to shoot things like flying teddy bears and strange little beasts that really have no business being either in the air or in outer space. It's all a bit weird, really. But it's a dead, dead good.



There's loads of these golden benches strewn all around the levels. You can collect them, although we're not sure what they're for.



These little fellows give you a helping hand by allowing you to jump on their heads, therefore allowing you to reach the golden benches.



Neither of the game's weird bosses - this time it's a strange cat.



MONSTER MASH

Some of the bosses in Kenji Flying Squads are just plain weird. For instance, on this level, you bump into a couple of sumo wrestlers, just as they're about to have a big fight. Now, we're not sure whether they're thrown or apart that you disturb them, but one of them promptly turns into a raging spinning top and tries to stomp on your head. Poking him with an umbrella seems to do the trick for a while, but after a couple of prods, he then turns into one of those things that you put on the end of a pencil and spins all around the level. Why he does this is anyone's guess - I suppose he must be pretty mad, after all. Or maybe he's possessed by the devil!



Look at me! I'm completely normal!



Now watch me turn into a strange monster!



It's a runaway giant train! One of the scariest parts of this level.

HARI RANI

Aww. Look at little Rani. Doesn't she look cute? Well, that's because she is really cute. But get her angry and you'll wish you'd never been born - you see, when she gets angry she turns into a completely different person. Just like the incredible Hulk. Her face goes all scratched up and she gets really really mean. And that's when she starts to get her weapons out. She can use her little umbrella to smack enemies over the head. Her mallet to, er, smack her enemies over the head and her little bow and arrow to shoot darts into the enemy. The umbrella also has another use - it shields Rani from overhead missiles and also gives her a parachute-like landing when she's airborne.



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speed, strength & skill

THREE DIRTY DWARVES

These guys will have Snow White turning in her grave!



DEVELOPER	GAME STYLE	RELEASE DATE
SEGA	Beat 'em up	September 1999
SEGA	Original title	
100% B&B LOCK	Strength of Edge, but with more to do	

Well, full marks to Sega of America for the imaginative title of this beat 'em up offering. It's not something you're going to forget in a hurry, that's for sure. But despite conjuring up visions of yellowed old men in long caulkcoats,

Three Dirty Dwarves is about as kiddie-friendly as it gets. Well, if you call impressing young children and forcing them to design super-advanced weaponry kiddie-friendly.

So see that's what Three Dirty Dwarves is all about—the plight of the high-spirited, fun-loving kids as they battle against the system. After being imprisoned for most of their little lives in a security complex, four highly intelligent kiddies have created their own area of reality by ignoring their real environment and playing dungeons and dragons instead. Little do they know that as a far off dimension their every die-roll changes the real lives of the three dwarf characters they have selected. When they roll a 20, a 2d inter-dimensional portal opens up and every single character from their adventure falls through it, bound for an earth city. And where do they end up? Why in New York of course.

As you can imagine, it's not everyday that the average New Yorker gets to see dwarves and trolls, but when the three dwarves join up to destroy all the nasty info. They quickly become national heroes. But instead of being all happy and jolly they're very down kaped about the whole situation because what they really want to do is get back to their home planet and blow up a few wizards. Or, get jobs creating nuclear bombs for corrupt heads of state. But to do that they're going to have to track down those pesky kids and get them to play another D&D adventure which will hopefully change their fate. And if they find the kids, there's a good chance that they'll be set free to play in the fields and skip in the streets just like all other good kids do.

So, it's a very complicated storyline, just like all the best D&D games. But despite being based on the



Dungeons and Dragons RPG, SegaSoft haven't plumped for the usual wondrous-but-adventure-wagonating loads of text et al. Instead, they've chosen a side-scrolling beat 'em up, similar to Streets of Rage (on parth). Each of the three dwarves has a different array of moves to inflict upon the enemy, ranging from slinging baseballs to hurling bowling balls. Strange weapons for Dwarves, but then they are from a different dimension.

The gameplay is split up into a variety of short levels, with the basic goal being to beat up just about everything on the screen. There's a massive array of enemies to defeat in the game, ranging from mean beach beaching birds to mutant rats. Also, when the dwarves get damaged or indeed when the dwarves damage a mutant, a skill screen appears somewhere on the screen displaying the amount of damage you've caused to an opponent. This happens on all the levels apart from the boss levels where there is much more movement around the screen.

We had a quick play of this title at the E3 show and while it's not quite up there with some of the top titles that are currently waving Saturn's skydies, it's pretty light-hearted and certainly plays well. Luckily, it's almost finished too, so you can expect to see a review in our next issue.



So on later! Put the best in! After all, it's only a game! Kick harder!



Make it and out of the traffic!



This is one of the side-scrolling levels of the game. It's quite good too, too!



THREE DIRTY BOYS

These are the imprisoned boys (plus a friendly robot) responsible for the chaos that is currently tearing through New York. They've got themselves into a whole lot of trouble by playing an innocent hole Piping game. Little do they know that with every roll of the die, they are changing events in a parallel dimension. When they play their final game in the adventure, they manage to release three dragons and a vast number of balls through an interdimensional port and on to another planet. In a bitter twist of fate, they themselves are moved from a medium risk security enclosure to a high risk one, giving them less freedom than ever before. As a result of their gaming, bizarre aliens are now wandering around the streets of NYC, wreaking havoc wherever they go.



Well, would you believe it? It's a take on the "classic" nine cart level! How fuzzy?

THERE'S MORE!

Three Dirty Dragons was created by SegaSoft, the same company responsible for Rug Test. They release all of their titles on the Saturn (and some on PC) and have a whole bunch of releases lined up for this year. Forthcoming games include: Air Bosses, Sacred Pools and Rug Test!



letter



Hello, I'm RAB
and I'm still wearing
the same clothes!



Hello readers. Read here. And I must say I'm absolutely swooning in this summery heat. In fact, I could just do with a nice ice lolly to cool me down. And that's where you come in. This month I want you to send me, along with your letters, an ice cream. A chocolatey one preferably, or perhaps a Mini Milk, but definitely no Walls Feastwiches, because I can't stand them. You might want to pack them into one of those freezer bag things because they're so good to me all melted and sticky and dripping out of the envelope. Send your lollies (and letters) to me at FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED LETTERS, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, PRIORITY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGTON LANE, LONDON EC3R 3AU. Thank you.

PS Actually if you can find any of those Penny Feet lollies I'll be your best friend. They're my favourite.

I'M NOT A FOOL

DEAR SAM,

I hate it the way your mag. and others as well, each month say that a certain game is an essential buy. This is because I just can't afford it.

I thought my Saturn just before Christmas with Virtua Fighter. Later I immediately went out and bought your magazine and don't get me wrong it is a very good magazine, but it is just when you write things like "now we've got a list if you don't buy Sega Rally" or "Virtua Fighter 2 is a must-have game" because not everyone can afford them.

I dream about owning Virtua Fighter 2 and am desperate to own Sega Rally but I just can't afford it. So next time you write something like "You must buy this game and you are a fool if you don't", just remember that we are not all loaded even though we would love to buy the game.

Alan, Harborne, W.Mans.

Calm down. And, you're missing the mark a bit. We're not saying that you're the scam of the tenth if you don't have X-Men. We're saying that if you're buying a game this month and it isn't the one we're recommending then, and only then, are you the scam of the tenth. It's a figure of speech.

PC OFF

DEAR SAM,

Today I read what the Teletext magazine Digitizer had to say. I was very annoyed at what I had read. It said that the Sega game NIGHTS was going to be converted onto PC along with games such as Sega Rally, Virtua Cop and Daytona USA, along with Virtua Fighter Remix. What are Sega up to? We faithful Saturn owners were promised that the above games would be SATURN EXCLUSIVE. What is the point then if Sega are going to release all their top titles onto the PC?

As you are the best magazine around, I hope you could tell me whether what Digitizer said was correct. I love my Saturn, and I don't want it to be discredited by PC releases. After all, if Sega are releasing Saturn games to the PC, why don't we get some games from the PC only market? Thanks a lot, keep up the ace work.

Cherlin Livingsy, Beckenham, Kent.

Well-a-re-eal, Chiggs, that's actually TRUE!

Sega are releasing some of their titles on PC, and some PC-only educational titles too. But don't worry too much as there'll be a long lag in release dates - over a year in some cases.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN A GIRL

TO ALL THE LOVED PEOPLE AT SAM,

Oh I don't see cases I have just come up with an exclusive ideal Girls in trouble games aren't just there for the sake of being in a game. They want

to be in a "Greatest Game of the Year" competition. Personally I have always found Sarah of Virtua Fighter pretty attractive. But you could get the whole of Britain (Ireland as well) to send in the name of "My Klade W-woman" in a canyon. Also, girls can't send in "Thank if the Year" (sarcasm). What day is that? I think it's the best idea in the world. See ya 'til ohms of SAM.

EC Penguin, N Ireland.

Do any other readers have sad and forlorn ideas of this caliber? If so, send them in, so we can publicly deride and scorn you.

DELIBERATE MISTAKE CORNER

DEAR SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE,

Thank you for being an up to date mag. in the Saturn department that is. My query is about a certain adrenaline-pumping game that had me popping pills at every turn. The game I'm talking about is of course Wipout. The thing that puzzled me was not the game but the box - yes, the Misting box. If you ever have the chance to look at it, so you carefully check it on your shelf and being proud that it's the only thing in the room that's tidy, pay close attention to the small print (as they say) and you'll notice the words "Two-player head-to-head fun-up" printed in the top right hand corner.

After seeing this I read the instruction manual for the first time in 16 years of my life and no further information on this subject or any hint was given.

So is this just another of not bothering to change the graphics design for the Saturn? Or is it a possible hint for the new Saturn link cable? Please Sega Saturn Magazine, is this fact or fiction?

Yours faithfully Saturnally yours,
James Davis, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey
PS By popping pills I meant Panadol pills, it was of those long nights on Wipout.

Well spotted, Eagle Eyes. Have you ever thought of becoming a Chessbox forest tracker?

MY WIFE LIKES BUG AS WELL

DEAR SAM,

When my wife said choose between a PlayStation or the Saturn I chose the Saturn, knowing that some of the games were diabolical (ie Wipeout, J Breakoutzone, Defcon 5 and Victory Grid).

Fortunately I had those games out first, which prompted me not to buy them. The ones that I did are superb, ie Sega Rally, FIFA 96 and Rags. My wife always plays that one.

I also keep my nose to the ground to find out what games are coming up. Which is what I like about your magazine. I like to be informed.

One thing that puzzles me is how a game like PGA III can knock the spots off any golf game the Saturn has produced so far. Philbie Beach's pro-



NIGHTS looks like he's trying to escape from the museum here. Stop the readers, or you'll never play his game.

grammers should be shot.

Can't wait for Doom, Quake, Space Hulk and Alien Trilogy to come out. The sooner the better.
Yours sincerely,
Mike Bradshaw, Newcastle, West.

What is it with England and whos? Everyone who writes in these days is banging on about how much their spouse loves the little ladies. Well, not everyone. In fact, only a few people. So I'll just shut up.

YOUR WISH IS OUR COMMAND

DEAR SEGA SATURN MAG,

Hi! I have always wanted to be a games reviewer for a magazine and I was wondering if I could be a reviewer for and I have had a Saturn since Xmas and I have unfortunately only got two games (Virtua Cop and Virtua) but this still doesn't stop me giving my opinions on games to all my friends. In fact most people come to me for advice on game buying etc.

If by any chance you do have a small space on a page for me to review games I would appreciate it if you would let me have a shot and if you don't like my views you can fire me. Since you're so nice and everything and you're not cruel like other unofficial Saturn mags I wrote to you so it would be a great honour to review games for you, so please consider my offer. I'm not asking for wages but just to be in the Saturn magazine.
Yours sincerely,
Scott Witham, A Magpie, Devon.

PS I'm only 14 and you need a teenager's point of view

Well there we are so nice and everything, we've decided to give you your own review space in this very issue. So here it is:

COMMENT BY SCOTT WITHAM

ADVERTISE GOOD THINGS NOW

DEAR SEGA,

Why are Sega letting the PlayStation game first place in the market place? From day one of the next generation battle of the consoles, it's the PlayStation that has been getting all the attention on the TV and the gaming press. True that in the hardware department the PS has got better 3D capabilities, but there is not that much difference between it and the Saturn, and the Saturn is easily better than the PS in the 2D and sound departments.

But everyone knows it's not hardware that sells a console, it's the games, and even though the gameplay should be the reason to buy the games, most people are drawn by the graphics. When the PS was released its two showcase games were Tekken 3 and Ridge Racer. Both of these games looked better, but wasn't a patch on the gameplay or suitability of Daytona or Virtua Fighter on the Saturn.

Now that Sega Rally and VZ have the best graphics and gameplay on any console, why don't Sega pull their finger out and put a really top notch advertising campaign out on the TV featuring these games - this would really lure the tablet on Sony.

I am just a bit worried that if they don't do something soon Sega might start to lose its third party software support due to the lack of Saturn owners.

Andrew Anderson, Stockton, Cleveland.

Why not instead,



A BONA FIDE GOOD IDEA

DEAR SEGA MAG,

I've recently hired out Sega Rally from Blockbuster and I must say it's well overcon-

ing. It is such a

great game.

However, there's just

one problem. Only

three tracks (four if you

count Lakeland). Now I

must admit I've come

across some nice perfor-

mance on these tracks,

but after hours of over-

size I got a bit bored.

Anyway, now onto my

point. After reading

your review of King of

Fighters '95 I thought,

if a cartridge could be

used to store backdrops why not carry tracks just think a cartridge with

five new rally tracks. Sega could charge about £20 a cartridge and I'm sure

people wouldn't mind paying. I know I wouldn't! If that worked we could

have more levels for Bug!, some new Daytona tracks, almost anything! I

know it probably wouldn't work but if it did Sega could make a lot of

money. What do you think?

Only "ICE" Anderson, Coventry

PS Sorry about all those exclusion marks, I can't seem to help it!

That's actually a really good idea. Sega could make it a feature of their retail policy that all their big games would get update cartridges (although that might damage the fortunes of sequels). The consumer support would be tremendous, and those who can't afford to buy lots of games could buy the cheaper upgrades for their old ones in between. We're just not sure if you could actually progress them like that.



Greg "ICE" Anderson has had a good idea. Another good idea would be to drop that stupid "ICE" bit in his name.

SATURNS ARE THICKER THAN BLOOD

DEAR SEGA,

I love my Saturn like a brother, more than my brother in fact, but I'm a little worried about its future. When I bought my black beauty there were many great games to be had - Virtua Cop, Virtua Fighter 2, Sega Rally to name but a few - but now (about six months later) the rate of decent game production seems to have slowed down considerably.

Sure, X-Men is pretty amazing, and the forthcoming NIGHTS looks wonderful, but unless I purchase games right over from the PlayStation, there seems nothing to waste my hard-earned pounds on.

The problem is that a flood of new box PlayStation, as we play to death a lot of the titles now available, or soon-to-be-available for the Saturn - WipEout, Magic Carpet, Loaded - and now I'm loath to spend £35 on something that won't provide that "brand new" gaming experience. I hope that Saturn developers will forge ahead to produce many great, innovative titles for our machine, rather than the second-hand goods that seem to be so often.

David Moss, Arsoned,
Newcastle Upon Tyne.

What about Sonic X-treme?
Or Cop 2? Or Fighting Vipers?
Or W. Kish? Or Exhumed? I can see your point, Denny Boy Irish Eyes Am Sealing, but the Saturn has actually got a pretty exciting line-up of original games coming from here in Christmas. Come on, cheer up, bud.



Do you think VZ should be advertised on the table? Or what? Why don't you tell us? Or us, Pazzo.



Q&A

If your gaming nous is titchy, bone up on the gen with Moslowicz - he's the man games man of Sega, and more dour than an album by Suzanne Vega. Yes, it's that time of the month again readers, where we put YOUR questions to OUR man at the big S and he shows off by answering them. If your brain hurts because of a strange Sega query, why not write to him at AMERICA BRRRAAAWKS!!! Q&A, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, PRIORITY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGDON LANE, LONDON EC1R 3AU. We'll do our best to help you out.

TEACHERS TODAY, EH?

DEAR SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE,

This is the third time I have written to you and you haven't answered my previous letters. The last time I wrote to you was when you were called 'Sega m...' or 'what is it now? Ah yes! Sega magazine. I think it was. So anyway will you please please please print my letter because I've always wanted to see my name in a magazine.

I know this question isn't to do with games but I would like to know what happened to Tom Cuckoo. Has he been fired? Or moved to another mag or what? Because I enjoyed reading his reviews/showcases.

I don't I will have some money to buy a game. I am a dishing game freak and was wondering which to get out of Sega Rally or World of Outlaws. Which one do you think I should get?

Lastly are there any games being developed at the moment on the Saturn? If so, what?

Chris Moore, Gt. Ouse, Bedford, UK, Yorks.

PS Sorry about the handwriting, but I'm 14 you should know that on my English teacher she always taught me how to improve my handwriting. Teachers today eh?



I am now reported to CVC because he's ugly. But he still writes the occasional thing for our mag. When we can stand to look at his hideous face. Or he's wearing a bag on his head. A Sega Rally fan sure. They're new onto Sega, it's a superior version, and lots of games will be using it soon.



"He looks Tommy & Jerry! In fact, I've looked in Saturn Mag at him! Please live on from my DVD please tell hi hi!"

GIZZA JOB

DEAR SAM,

I have a few questions if I can ask you. I'd knowledge able and:

- 1 Have you [SAM] got a web site if so, what is it?
- 2 Are Oasis better than Blur (sorry I just had to ask)?
- 3 Is there an old there be a screen saver for the Saturn, as when I play CDs the screen does tigger on for a long old time?
- 4 Will there be an animation program for the Saturn?
- 5 Why do AI and MSN beat 'em up keep be vamping old (but good) is 'em beat 'em up? Are they just making an example of the saying 'same ol' different day'?
- 6 Can you give away some nice models disk? And don't say 'be patient my child' or anything along these lines? Can I be a reviewer? You list are my friends!

Robin, Abingdon, Oxon.



I not at the moment, although Sega have one at WWW.sega.com. A Why yes, that's highly unlikely. A So that's why mess with success? B We will. I sorry pal.

HE'LL KILL US ALL

DEAR SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE,

Please answer the following questions as I need to know for I'll kill you!

- 1 Are Sega going to introduce a budget range for their older games, like Castlevania Knight and Daytona?
- 2 Is Resident Evil going to be released on Saturn?
- 3 When is GunGriffin going to be released in the UK?
- 4 Are 3D-RT versions of Vortexian and Gears of War coming on the cards?
- 5 Any plans for compilations of the Thunderforce and Streets of Rage games?
- 6 How about new versions of the above?
- 7 Will Daytona 2 be possible to have a 4 player mode via split screen and link-up? Please.

Thanks for your time. Oh and please release '02' '03 as it is absolutely amazing.

Christopher Buckley, Gwent, S. Wales.



1 Maybe, a Probably not. 2 July. 3 A Remake not just that one, but we can't say which. 4 Nope. 6 Yes, for at least on of them. 7 Probably Maybe.

FORGOT HIS NAME

DEAR SAM,

Please can you answer these questions. Thank you.

- 1 Will Maria TT Superstars come out on the Saturn? If so when?
- 2 Will there be any more Virtua games?
- 3 Will there be any more shooting games using the Virtua Cop gun?
- 4 Is it true that Bag 2 will be a shoot 'em up?

SEGA SATURN MAG is the best magazine and Saturn is better than the PlayStation.

The Nameless Wanderer, Dixley, Wiltshire/Hampshire



1 December, just in time for Christmas. 2 Yeah, mate. 3 Y'Cop 2 and Policenauts for starters, plus more in the pipeline. 4 Noneone.

AN OLD FLAME WRITES

DEAR SAM,

After reading your magazine for about a year and a half (starting when you were Sega Magazine and I had a Magazine) I have decided to write in with some questions:

- 1 Is Command and Conquer going to be released on the Saturn? I have played it on my PC and it is a brilliant game.
- 2 What will you put on your next demo disk?
- 3 Will the new Daytona have more tracks?
- 4 When will AM2 make their own solo game? They helped AM1 with Maria TT.
- 5 Why does no one sell Darkst at £19.99 as stated for the EE? In your DVD. Now features? Everywhere sells it at about £44.99.
- 6 Who is the character in the middle of your Guardian Heroes review with the red armour a red green hat?

Thanks

Paul Salomon, Hampton, Middle.



1 No indeed, and there's a six month wait on it too - so no PlayStation version until next year. He he. A Well, yes - but hopefully it'll be NIGHTS. 2 Oh hell yes. A They won't. Sorry. 5 They're ripping you off. The EE? A £19.99. Report them to the police. 6 Sorry.



LOOKED like to see mirror closer look to follow. SEGA!!! It's Back TT Superstars! Now look before we see it on Saturn? But long, beautiful.

I'VE SEEN THE LIGHT, BROTHER!

DEAR SAM,

Firstly I'm only a newcomer to your mag and I'm glad that I have seen the light because your mag is brilliant and kicks every other mag's butt. So now I would like you to answer the following questions:

- 1 Will Virtua Cop be coming with the new gun?
- 2 Will the new Daytona be cheap like Virtua Fighter 2 is?
- 3 Is the PlayStation a better machine because we always seem to be getting second class conversions?
- 4 Will the Saturn be able to cope with Virtua Fighter 3, because the graphics look amazing?
- 5 Will there be any SoRe series games from Electronic Arts coming on to the Saturn?

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Ainsworth, Wighton, Co Londonbury, N. Ireland.



1 You'll be able to buy it without the gun if you've already got one. 2 Unfortunately not - it's a bit more than just a sequel, it's a whole new game. 3 No. 4 Ya Suzuki thinks so, and who are we to argue? 5 Soviet Strike, shown in News last issue.

WF
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SHOWCASE

2 NICKY TEARS

A vibrant, 3D-rendered promotional image for the video game 'Nights Into Dreams'. The central character, Nights, is a purple bat-like creature with large, expressive eyes, wearing a purple and yellow scarf and a purple hat. He is shown in a dynamic, flying pose, with his arms outstretched and a trail of bright, sparkling light behind him. The background features a lush, green landscape with rolling hills and a large, stylized tree with blue and yellow leaves. In the distance, a small, whimsical character is seen flying through the air. The overall scene is set against a bright, cloudy sky.

NIGHTS

into dreams

SEGA SATURN

SHOWCASE

A game based both in and out of a dreamland, NIGHTS grants you control of an all-singing, all-dancing, all-flying, all-paraloooping hero, a demon of the Nightmare world whose spirit of playfulness and individuality has displaced his masters' to escape the soul prison into which he is locked. NIGHTS teams up with two youngsters, both of whom are suffering from bad dreams due to their address in 'bubbles'. The deal is this – NIGHTS will free them from their nightmares if they can free his from his. So to that with the player has three different avatars under his control – but it's with NIGHTS himself (the main bulk of the game) that it becomes one of the coolest gaming experiences ever devised.

Your level starts with Clara or Elliot (our teen

heroes) heading towards region one, NIGHTS, clutching a red 'Mare' idea. The five ideas represent the five positive aspects of personality – the others are white (curiosity), green (wisdom), yellow (love) and blue (intelligence). Once red is plugged in to NIGHTS (all he needs for a limited amount of time) to win him free he has to find the others before this time runs out. Although it's replenished with each idea he finds. Once all of Clara or Elliot's ideas are in place NIGHTS is free to tackle his own enemies – the Nightmare demons. Once NIGHTS beats them all he's free forever, and it just so happens he falls their plot to take over the realm of Nighttopia – land

of good dreams – along the way.

So how does NIGHTS lay his hands on the ideas? Why, by cunningly negotiating a number of courses, known as Mares. Each Mare holds the key to an idea, along with a number of hazards and bonuses. Mares, being magic dreams, replenish themselves completely each time you return to the start (by completing the loop-course). The idea can only be freed by collecting enough Chips (all explained in a how-to), and some Mares require NIGHTS to fly through three or four times before moving on. After you've freed your ideas, deposit it in the ideas Palace and you're off to the next course. Once all four Mares of a level are completed, it's on to the boss. This may all sound simple enough – but just you wait until you get a go off...

ANALOGUE IN

NIGHTS is the first game to utilize Sega's new analogue controller. This might seem like a bit of a gimmick, but once you've played NIGHTS you'll realise that the looser, easier to roll and more accurate analogue pad is almost essential if you want to get the most from your little flying-jester-bro. Obviously analogue pads are also ace for other games too (especially driving games), but this certainly comes into its own with Spike Team's latest. Honest, it is just like flying. It is



CLARIS



ELLIOT

DOWN FOR A-LIFE

A few issues back we split a few bones on the Artificial Life (or A-Life) system employed by NIGHTS. If by any chance you missed that issue (because you're stupid or something) we'll just explain it again. It's a feature developed by the team which makes Nighttopia and its inhabitants. The more you play the game, the more your surroundings and their occupants change. New Nighttopians appear, the cultures expand, and their environment throws up new hills and valleys. In fact, if you're in the right (or wrong) place at the right (or wrong) time you can actually be decked by a new plateau springing up from the floor! A-life is one of the things which tells you that there's more to NIGHTS than just beating the end boss – there's always something new going on in Nighttopia (A-life is saved to memory) and better still, your action in destroying the Nightmare and rendering the joint peaceful directly affect the proceedings!



One of the characters in NIGHTS has their own resident home, writing the scene and telling their story. This story (it's) nightmare about her forthcoming audition for the local musical. It's clear now, it's clear now, it's clear now, it's clear now.





SLED CITY

Another feature of NIGHTS we revealed in a previous issue was the NIGHTS Bobble! – a section of the game where NIGHTS hits the ice in bobsleigh form and rides staves, collecting bonuses on his way. Well, this section is finished now (it's in the Frozen Bell stage) and it's absolutely cool! NIGHTS bombs down the slide at a million miles an hour, and his movement up the slippery sides – where most of the goodies are secreted – is affected by his velocity and turn angle, much like in real life. You'll probably have to tackle this bit a couple of times before nacking up enough Blue Chips, but that's no bad thing as it's an exhilarating change of pace.



BRAKE IT DOWN

All this flying in the sky business is all very well – but what happens if you start feeling all amuck and queasy? Well, unlike with planes and helicopters, with NIGHTS you can just stop for a while to get your breath back. Doing this couldn't be easier, as NIGHTS' big floppy shoes act as superb air brakes. Simply pressing the L and R buttons at the top of top of the pad together halts NIGHTS in his tracks almost immediately. However, there's a n even nester trick on offer – each top button corresponds to the representative foot, and by only applying one airbrake NIGHTS begins to dance in the air, spinning and precessing around on his heel whilst changing direction, or twisting his whole body around whilst flying. This doesn't seem to make a big difference to the game itself, but it does make a big difference to the feel when you're playing it. It might just look like falling about, but it feels very serene. Although you're not going to believe that until you play it.

This is Biking, the first boss. And also the scene of a caber my horse, oddly enough.



SHOWCASE

Links make points. And what do points mean? Why they make higher scores at the end of the level, and that's the aim of the game.

But alas, it took a while to complete that course, not much bonus time remaining. And that means lower points. Bad!

UNDER THE SEA

NIGHTS certainly is a clever demon beastie. As well as flying through the air, sliding down icy slopes and bouncing off walls, he's also able to breathe underwater! Indeed, it appears the only thing he can't do is walk on the ground. Still, never mind, because that wouldn't act as impetus for as entertaining a sub-game as his aquatic abilities. One of Elliott's levels contains a hidden spring under a cave, and should NIGHTS find it he's able to swim around looking for bonuses. Suddenly, a harsh current sweeps him into another behind-the-character super-speed adventure as he swims through a narrow tunnel switching lanes to find the best bonuses and hit as many loops as possible. The time though he controls are reversed to simulate NIGHTS' flipper-powered endeavours.



LOOP OF FAITH

Sometimes NIGHTS encounters a yellow and blue loop. This is a bonus loop, and it's a very good idea to go through it. NIGHTS' star trail changes – for a limited period only – to a solid yellow ribbon of light, and by performing Paraloops of various sizes he can rack up bonus points. The loops go from Small through to Large and Giant, with different points for each. The real fun, though, comes in using NIGHTS' air-brakes to dance in the air, performing Twisters, T Drops, Flouettes and Hurricanes. It takes a while to work out what these are exactly, as opposed to randomly twisting the pad, but it's worth persevering as it's excellent fun showing off to your friends and generally pouncing about. It really does feel like flying in a dream. We're out, just saying that.



Look at that gorgeous trail, Bah. If only you could see it moving, you see it's amazing.



That multi-coloured loop is the essence of the glowing sub-game with the ribbons, Bah.



Del, little Elliot looks all excited about his first week. Bless his little socks.



I KILL YOU! HA HA! I KILL YOU!

Included within NIGHTS is a separate 2-player split-screen VS mode option. One player controls heroic NIGHTS, and the other the evil Basil. The characters are placed into a confined arena (with a big pointy thing in the middle) and fly around attempting to Paraloop or Drill Dash each other into submission. The winning player is either the first to score three hits, or he who has the most belts under his belt when the time limit runs out. It's a pretty entertaining little diversion, but we're slightly doubtful as to its lasting appeal. Still, what do you expect for free!



KNOW THE DRILL

NIGHTS' abilities are multifarious – you can certainly tell he was created as a top-flight terna demon by the Lord of Nightmare. Apart from the Paraloop he's in possession of another, simpler attack. Pressing either A, B or C sends NIGHTS into a Drill Dash. As the component names of this technique suggest, NIGHTS spins around and shoots forward at an accelerated pace. This bashes any Nightmarean NIGHTS hits into oblivion, and also allows him to turn quickly by spangling off walls or other indestructible objects – plus of course it makes it easier to reach the Idray Prison when you've only a couple of seconds of NIGHTS-time remaining. However using this ability costs NIGHTS energy – there's only a certain number of times he can use his spin, indicated by the green bar in the bottom-left corner of the screen which diminishes with each twist. Luckily there is a way for NIGHTS to top up this bar – by gliding through the many floating rings which occupy each level. Every time NIGHTS shoots through one his Drill Dash energy is restored a tiny amount. With careful enough flying it's possible to fill the bar right up – enough energy to fight most bosses with!



PLAY BETTER TO WIN THE GAME

Whenever either of the kids wakes up and their dream is ended, NIGHTS imparts some final words of wisdom to aid them in their future attempts. Each of these game hints is fully illustrated, partially to demonstrate how to perform the actions mentioned, and partially just to look lovely. Many of the hints are actually specific to the section of the game in which your journey came to an end. Sadly all the ones in our version were untranslated from the Japanese, so we've had to guess what they're about for the most part.



CASH YOUR CHIPS

You might think that chips are just those potato things you have with your tea, but you'd be wrong – there are all sorts of chips, some of which are relevant to NIGHTS. Silicon chips inside your Saturn run the game, and NIGHTS himself runs an blue ball thing called *Lite* Chips, which float around in the sky awaiting collection. The *Lite*s are only freed from their cages (known as *Ideya* Captors) by depositing sufficient Chips within them, so NIGHTS' first priority is to gather enough for the job. The amount of blue Chips required varies from level to level, but you'll know when you've got enough because the Chip Counter in the top left corner of the screen turns from blue to orange. Beginners should cash their Chips as quickly as they're earned, as once NIGHTS' flying time is over he'll plummet to the ground, scattering the boulders across the floor and leaving Clara or Elliot to pick up after him. Expert players, however, should note that they can save precious bonus-scoring time by heading around the course until they've got all the Chips they need – and then racing around again for bonus Chips before depositing the *Lite*s for more NIGHTS time.



By dashing through, you can get a bonus score. To qualify for this bonus, it must be done within 10 seconds.

GLOCK THE HAMMER

We all know what it's like – you're right in the middle of an exciting dream about teaming up with a flying sprite to rid the world of night-mare and a familiar ringing enters your subconscious. At first it works its way into the fabric of your imagination, and your dim brain finally recognises its chirp and awakens you. You might struggle to keep your alarm clock from ruining your fun, but it's generally inevitable it will. Unless, of course, you really are teased up with a flying sprite. See, when Clara or Elliot are in human form, they're constantly chased by a giant flying ringing alarm clock, which casts the shiny light of dawn down upon them. Should the kids find themselves trapped in its beam they'll wake up, thus ending their adventures: the only way to save them is to run like the wind to avoid the dreaded bells until you've collected a NIGHTS-freeing *Ideya*. Now NIGHTS takes over the dream, freeing you from the after-effects of the timepiece that could spell the end to your hopes of musical stardom or basketball stardom, depending





WHAT'S THE SCORE?

When NIGHTS (or Clans/Elliott) completes a Maze, his performance is rated in terms of the speed at which the Chips were collected, the number of Nightmareans toppled, the number of links racked up and most crucially apart from speed, how many bonus Chips were collected. A polygonous rotating thing appears, and marks you from A to F. If you complete the Maze as one of the kids you're in for an automatic F as you've squandered your NIGHTS time. If you've been good and scored loads of bonuses you'll get an A. The balance of your Maze scores and fight against the boss gives you an overall total score for the level. This is pretty important, because you can only fight Wizenan once you've scored a C or above on all your levels. So, for a tip, after collecting the keys within a Maze, your best bet is to not cash it in straight away, but to tour the Maze a couple more times collecting all the Chips again (they'll have turned gold to signify you of their boredom). Now cash in the keys and hopefully you'll do okay.



This may show the layout of each level, and the path of each course (or Maze) around it. Pig activities, because later levels have some spontaneously complex Mazes and it's hard to figure where you are, instead, the interface is so up, cut-side for both Mazes.

I HAVE THE POWER!

Power-ups are one of those inescapable inevitabilities of just about every game, and perhaps the most amazing thing about the ones found in NIGHTS is their instant functionality. They appear as coded icons and perform fairly perfunctory duties. One, with a purple fishball emblazoned upon it, wipes out all enemies on the screen. A more novel item, decorated with a Nightvolian head, grants NIGHTS a few moments with a chirpy Nightvoian wingman who collects all the objects NIGHTS passes. The most common pick-ups are the golden stars, which huddle in their millions all over everywhere. These are points bonuses, which might sound a bit feeble in the grand scheme of things, but NIGHTS is a game where points matter.



STAGE DRESSING

NIGHTS' environment is littered with accoutrements which help or hinder his progress at sometimes both. Some are obvious such as the barrels suspended in the sky shoot NIGHTS out at super-speed should he pass through them. Some aren't, like the semi-translucent air pockets which bounce NIGHTS around like bumpers (again at high speed, but making your controls unworkable). The trickiest ones are the bonus barrels. These bright orange balls float in front of NIGHTS after he makes contact with them. A number on the side of the barrel indicates how many hoops it wants to be manoeuvred through (or how many objects you have to pick up with it) until it splits open to grant you extra points. If you're especially lucky you might even get a power-up too. But be warned - earning such bonuses is nowhere near as easy as it sounds, you have to pull off a performing seal act and steer the thing with your nose, hoping against hope it doesn't just float away.



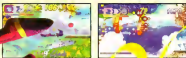
RED ARROWS, SCHMED ARROWS

NIGHTS' main magical ability is his Paraloop. As NIGHTS flies through the air, a trail of mystical star energy disperses behind him. If NIGHTS joins these stars together by performing a roll in the air he opens a vortex which sucks all the matter within it into space. The bigger the Paraloop the more powerful the vortex. This means fussy 'loops merely catch enemies and Chips inside their parameters, bigger ones draw in objects just above or to the side, and humungous ones vacuum everything in the surrounding area into their heart. Good objects, like stars and Blue Chips, are deposited straight into NIGHTS' pocket, whereas bad ones such as Nightmareans vanish, never to be seen again.



NIGHTS' main magic is a thing called Paraloop.





LOOP THROUGH HOOPS

Each stage of *Night* is stuffed full of groups of bright, orange spheres arranged into rings. These aren't just there for decoration (although they are very pretty and it's fun to see some around my area instead of all that concrete). What *NIGHTS* is supposed to do, right, is fly through the centre of them, whereupon he is awarded points, along with extra Dash power (explained elsewhere). The thing is that those loops seldom link on their own – they're generally part of a small circuit of circles, and the more of these *NIGHTS* flies through without missing one the more his score is multiplied. You're informed of your progress by a link indicator flashing on screen telling you how many loops you've flown through, or Chops or bonuses you've collected in one go. Indeed, grabbing just about anything in *NIGHTS* opens you up to a multiple multiplier. This might sound like a fairly pointless exercise, but remember that the amount of points you score in each level of *NIGHTS* helps determine your overall rating at the end of the stage.



SOFT MUSEUM

The lokiest stage of *NIGHTS* has to be Clain's 'Soft Museum' stage. The whole level, whilst being solid enough, is made of puffy, waring and bouncing with every fall of her feet. Things get even weirder for *NIGHTS* as he flies through a rubber building festooned with mirrors which reflect his every move, and the play environment. Getting bounced around inside here is as confusing a situation as you're likely to encounter. Unless you've studying for a maths degree.



WE WILL CRUSH PUNY NIGHTS!

One of the most spectacular things about *NIGHTS* is the scale of its bosses. Each one is either huge, or commands a sprawling domain full of hazards. Every boss requires a unique method of destruction. To give you some idea of what we're talking about, here's a selection of our faves.



PUFFY



A giant opera-singing bouncy weeble of a boss. The only way to defeat her is by throwing her through her stage, using her bulk to smash down the obstacles in the way until finally lobbing her into a cage at the end.

JACKAL



An evil flying deacon armed with giant playing cards, which he throws in threes. These magical projectiles glide towards *NIGHTS* at high speed leaving a fat tracer trail behind, which often obscures the flight path of the ones behind of the boss himself! Once you've dodged the cards you still have to work to near the blighter before letting him.

CLAWZ



This boss protects himself by surrounding his lair with a rotating wheel of mice on poles. Not the most orthodox of defences, perhaps, but fully novel nevertheless. See, he can only be beaten by destroying his mouses, which are only vulnerable when they're flashing. Sounds simple enough, but try dealing with it in 3D!

GET ON THE GOOD FOOT

The renaissance of the classic button-bashing athletics games continues! US Gold won the Olympics license, but Sega's very own AM3 are set to keep joypads burning with their arcade conversion, **Athlete Kings**. ROB BRIGHT is on the starting blocks.

A long time ago, when man reached a state of civilisation comfortable enough to make hunting a more mechanical and effortless process, he decided to celebrate the fact by redesigning the various hunting methods and turning them into a show of strength and superiority over every other species. Rather than running at pace after a pig, he decided to run after nothing, other than throwing a spear at galloping elk he decided to throw a spear at nothing. OK, so it seems a bit stupid but then athletics, like all sports when you get to thinking about them, is a bit strange anyway.

Anyway, the idea that started out with the Ancient Greeks has stuck, and now we have an Olympic celebration every four years with the most super fit humans on the planet gathering together to run very fast at nothing and throw spears at nothing among other things.

But the really jaded athletes aren't happy seeing their guts out in just one event, they want to do them all, or ten of them at least. The supreme decathlete thus earns the honour of being the greatest athlete on Earth. Sega's new title, designed in part to coincide with the Olympics, is based around the Decathlon, and it comes at a time when other software developers are also bringing out the old 'Track and Field' style athletics sims.

Athlete Kings originally went under the name of Decathlete, although a licensing problem meant the name had to be changed for a UK release. Essentially this is the same as the arcade game, using it to do frames a second which is exactly the same as *Virtual Fighter 2*.

Athlete Kings is a long way from those old track and field games you might have played at your arcade, utilising the best that 3D polygon technology has to offer to create a sense of complete realism, be it the look of the arena itself or the movement of the athletes.

Athlete Kings is still some way from completion although it should be available by around September. Hopefully we'll have a full review in next month's issue.



Before you start each event, a 30s demonstration pops up to show you how to control your athlete.



Beijing was not. It also is worth your while.



To get the perfect trajectory in the high jump you'll want an angle of 45°, and of course, plenty of power in your run up. And don't forget to flub up those legs so you go sailing over the bar! The world record is by Flo. If you want to attempt this then your first jump will have to be at least 2 metres.



As you sprint the 100 metres the starting angle gradually resolves about the sprinters, showing off the amazing physics. Most of the events are modelled like this.



THE EVENTS

As everyone knows, the decathlon involves ten events. If you ever did one of those 'five star awards' at school you'll have some idea of how it works. For every event, points are awarded according to either the time you achieve in track events or the distances and heights you achieve in field events. They're then all added up and the person with the most points is officially declared the king of athletes! Anyway, here are the ten events in the order that you do them.

100 METRES

Perhaps the greatest of events and also one of the most nerve-racking, the 100 metres sprint is ideal for those of a more athletic disposition. In some respects the race is won or lost on the start, although there are always those sprinters who really pick up pace in the later half of the race.



Technique: Simply a matter of hatching two buttocks in whatever style suits you. The one drawback is that the buttocks aren't positioned together so the rapid rubbing between the two is largely impossible.



400 METRES

The hardest of the sprints, requiring power and stamina in equal measure, the 400 metres is normally one of the most decisive events in the Decathlon. Some athletes tend to go off fast and look to preserve a lead, while others go for an even pace around the first 300 metres and attempt a burst of speed down the final straight.



Technique: You'd think that this would be exactly the same as the 100 metres, but the 400 metres involves making use of a stamina bar.



It's not just how fast you are that counts. You might think it's a bit unfair having a man and a woman racing each other but it makes little difference in the game. No, that's equality for you, you hear!

SHOWCASE

32.18s 32.11s



As if you couldn't guess, Mike's strengths come mainly in the throwing events. One of his weakest is surprisingly the 100m metres, just like old' Bang.



SHOT PUT

You always recognise the shot putters in an athletics tournament because they look like Huge Stig-of-the-Dump type characters, covered in Neanderthal hair, and they're almost always from Germany.



Technique: This one's done a bit differently from what you'd expect. Rather than *holding* the button to collect power, the power bar goes *up and down* as the putter prepares for the throw. The idea is to *press* the button when the power is high and *keep the button down* until the perfect angle is achieved.



That really is quite an enormous chin Mike's got there.

LONG JUMP

Anyone who knows athletics knows that the best long jumpers are almost always the best sprinters. Once in the jump, a bicycle movement with the legs helps to propel the jumper further into the sandpit.



Technique: Some *horizontal* button mashing is what's required first, but *tilting* to lift the head just right is also essential. It's then a matter of *finding* the perfect angle of ascent and *quickly* *holding* the buttons open to get some useful leg-kick.



1500 METRES

This is the event that finishes off the decathlon, and it's a mark of competitors' stamina that after pushing every muscle and limb to near breaking point, they finish off by running round the track three and three-quarter times. The main advice when the 1500 metres is concerned is simply to finish it.

Technique: Get ready for the early onset of exhaustion with this one, as players are required to keep jabbing at the same two buttons for what feels like an eternity. Like the 400 metres there's a stamina bar, but the difference here is that players also use the D-pad to weave in and out of other races.

2:01.15s 2:01.15s

0:15.91 0:15.91



2.02s 2.02



In the 1500 metres there are lots of competing runners as well as the two competitors. They have several techniques including setting the pace and being aware to be made the whole experience a bit more exciting. Try and stay on the inside at all times.

110 METRES HURDLES

Most hurdlers will tell you that the best technique in this event involves scraping the very top of the hurdle without toppling it. Getting the perfect number of paces between hurdles is also very important.

Technique: Like the 100 metres, the hurdles involves the dual button bashing but also a jump as well. Getting a good time is all about developing a perfect rhythm between the running and jumping.

13.76s 13.76s



7.31s 7.31s



Whatever you do, do not get involved on race before entering any of the events. Especially the javelin or pole vault.

DISCUS

A kind of mix between javelin and shot put, discus involves lots of power but an equal measure of composure as well, so you don't get dizzy with all that spinning. Getting the discus on an exactly the same trajectory is also important.

Technique: In terms of technique, the discus is the most complicated of the throwing events. Power is built up by spinning the D-pad. When the throwers arm reaches the right point to get a throw within the measuring area it's a matter of finding the perfect angle.



Not only is she a very able disc, but Ellen Boggsell is also pretty sharp when it comes to the running events.



Joe's going to fall here because he's jumping from back toe to front. But then, he does wear a cap backwards.



It's 11 degrees having a stab at the javelin. The perfect angle to launch it is 45°.



Joe Baker is one of the ultrasiders in the game, so is Neil Walsh. Having said that, anyone taking part in the decathlon needs to be a bit of an all-rounder anyway.

HIGH JUMP

This is the event where the competitors normally spend about three hours psyching themselves up by twirling back and forth on their toes and blowing out their cheeks a lot. A refined technique is essential if you want to jump that extra few centimetres.

Technique: One of the most difficult events to master in *Athlete King*. The player starts by gathering a bit of momentum with some slower button bashing, but on reaching the bar, stops and holds down an alternative button for just the amount of time necessary to get the perfect angle of ascent. It's then a matter of using the direction pad to flip up the legs as they go travelling over the bar.



JAVELIN

The British for some strange reason have always been pretty good at this event. It involves loads of arm power but also a ready run up and an ability to whip the arm forward as fast as possible like a catapult.

Technique: After getting a bit of a run up together, acquiring distance with the javelin is largely a matter of finding the perfect 45° angle, and some button bashing to maintain the flight of your spear. But be careful not to over step the line when the javelin is released.



He's the all-American hero, the champ, the best, the god-damn medal king, the sweet lord's stars and stripes centred. And he's also called Dick.





BORN TO RUN...OR JUMP, OR THROW

There are eight competitors in *AthleteKings* and each of them is classified as either an all-rounder, a thrower, a jumper or a sprinter. This doesn't mean of course that a sprinter is faced with a javelin they'll try and use it as a piece of out-sized cutlery, but rather that sprinting is the kind of event they tend to excel at. Some of you are no doubt keen to point out that there are three women in the game even though women don't do the decathlete but the pentathlete. Well, this is a computer game after all, so a little poetic license is no big deal.



Victory in the 400 metres for Jamaica's Heidi Radstone. Like Ellen, sprinting is her forte, something which she makes her really good at the long jump as well, get the girl looks.



She'll be a pole vaulter eh? Oh yes, pole vaulters I suppose.

POLE VAULT

This has to be just about the scariest event in athletics, as well as one of the most gymnastic. Players need to collect enough pace to get a good bend in the bar when it hits the box, and awesome upper-body strength to lift themselves up and over the bar.

Technique. Pole Vault is on a par with high jump in terms of the complication of the technique. After collecting a bit of pace on the runway, perfect timing is necessary to get the pole in the box.



That's right mate, get that hurdle out of Bennett's way! It's not that it falls eh?

FINGERS ON THE BUTTONS

One of the most notorious aspects of a game like *AthleteKings* is the irrelevant button bashing it involves, eventually destroying many a joystick and leaving horrible scars on your finger. It's also the time when all of those weird and wonderful techniques begin to reveal themselves. The 'finger gallop' for example, where the player uses their middle and forefinger like a pair of legs, or the 'electro stutter', where the player cradles the pad between their knees and tries to make their fingers vibrate as much as possible. Be ready for lots of innovations as well, like people tapping up their forefinger so as to avoid too much chuffing when they're furiously raving at the buttons.



Kindergarten KUNG-FU!

With the supercool likes of *Sonic Fighters* and *Fighting Vipers* busting their way onto Saturn in the near future, what place is there for the weird child of the pack – *Virtua Fighter Kids*? Its makers, AM2, say it's better than *Virtua Fighter 2*, but are they the ones with the swollen heads? "No way!" cries water-on-the-brain victim TOM GUISE, "Big heads rule!"

"A speed battle game far better than *Virtua Fighter 2*!"

That's what AM2 say of their *Hyper Kids* cart-up. And, considering they ARE the creators of the legendary VF2 – as well as being responsible for the aforementioned hot favourites, *Fighting Vipers* and *Sonic Fighters* – and, moreover, were the inventors of the whole 3D fighting game concept itself, they just might have some clue what they're talking about.

But you'll be excused for questioning what makes VF Kids so special. From the screenshots, and even on the surface, it seems to be nothing more than VF2 with big heads. As an arcade game, it might not tempt you delve any further. But this game was designed for the ST-V (Saturn-dedicated) arcade board. And, true to its nature, it's heading fully-reformed to Sega's superconsole.





one of the most addictive in the Saturn series. One of Virtua Fighter's most brilliant NEW bits, VF Kids features the same look, only this time the size is completely mad. Unlike what we were expecting to, normal Virtua Fighters everything hit - kid! the intro cuts the 'Kid' almost as ridiculous

like this. Each you appears with their respective adult counterpart, and they proceed to beat each other up. All except the Shans, who just come down. Particularly amusing is little Jeffrey using a steel to help his brother beat his 'dad'. And baby slapping his little brother. Great & entertaining but

THE 'BIG' PICTURE!

Before delving into what makes VF Kids different from its famous adult brother, it's first worth explaining exactly why Sega have created the game at all. And the answer lies in shrewd marketing. While the Saturn might be in tough competition with the PlayStation here in the UK, over in Japan it's a very different situation. In short, the Saturn is crushing the PlayStation. And it's all thanks to Virtua Fighter and VF!

Over there, AM2's fighting game series is granted almost godlike status. Even now, arcades are filled with more VF machines than any other game! The release of near-perfect conversions on Saturn, sold the machine almost single-handedly! As a result, most Japanese programmers developing two-player versus type games, choose Saturn instinctively, partly because they know their core gamers already own the machine.

The problem is, fighting games in general only appeal to specific gamers. Mainly, 15 to 25 year old males. With this area of the market already covered, Sega Of Japan now intend on drawing in other types of gamers. The first move was the introduction of the white Flash Saturn. At half the Saturn's original launch price, and in more cosmopolitan colours, the machine flew off the shelves on release. The number of female and younger Saturn gamers has increased dramatically. To cater for this upsurge, games like Rockman X (Meganami) and the upcoming NiGHTS have been developed. But 'Kid' also want to expand the appeal of the Saturn's main brand - Virtua Fighter. And that's where the VF Kids fit in!



The screens below in 16 bits too. Also, when you complete the game, AM2 say they've included two-minute FMV endings for each character. We're yet to see them though.



LION RAFALE

Considering he's only a teenager in VF's, being tanned like a Kid doesn't effect Lion that much. His Praying Mantis dodging does seem slightly different due to the extra quantity of head he possesses. Most impressive of all though, is his facial claw attack. Leaping onto an opponent wastes head looks brilliant, and is more effective than ever! All the more impressive because you get multiple replays of the move, when successfully pulled off!



LION RAFALE

The no-nonsense Chinese chef somehow manages to keep his dignity, even with a head the size of a pumpkin. Although his squeaky chipmunk voice does lower the tone somewhat. Unlike his more cheery colleagues, little Lion doesn't smile an awful lot, only really pulling faces when hit. To get a good replay with this guy, you need to flash a floating punch combo with a spinning roundhouse Stomping on a floored opponent's hip-head is also good for a laugh!

AGE:	56	SEX:	M	BLOOD TYPE:	E
NATIONALITY:	CHINESE	HEIGHT:	6'11"		
BIRTHDAY:	5/16/40	WEIGHT:	17 stone		
FIGHTING STYLE:					
OCCUPATION:					
HOBBY:					

VF KIDS

CHARACTERS: 14

STAGES: 14

ITEMS: 14

BOSS: 14

STORY: 14

ITEMS: 14

STORY: 14



AGE:	17	SEX:	M	BLOOD TYPE:	AB
NATIONALITY:	FRENCH	HEIGHT:	5'11"		
BIRTHDAY:	24/12/79	WEIGHT:	10 stone		
FIGHTING STYLE:	TOBIKI-KEN PUNCHING MASTER				
OCCUPATION:	HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT				
HOBBY:	SILVERSMITHING				

SHOWCASE

JACKY BRYANT

The cool kid of VFs keeps all his energy even in child form. It's clear a lot of extra effort was required to reproduce Jacky's hair in super-deformed form. His hair spikes are just huge. Jacky seems able to swing more moves into combat now, but his big head has lowered the range of his drop attack. His really appetitive also makes for plenty of replays. His six-hit lightning kick and double-height roundhouse bring a couple of examples. His jacket frame legs is cute now too.

AGE: 25	SEX: M	BLOOD TYPE: A
NATIONALITY: AMERICAN	HEIGHT: 5'4 1/2"	
BIRTHDAY: 22/1/70	WEIGHT: 12 stone	

FIGHTING STYLE: JETTY DUNCE
OCCUPATION: PONY TAIL SMOKER
HOBBY: TRAINING



Well's "great wing" is an excellent example of the new camera angles employed in VF 2ds. The opponent's head is so big though, that Well can only drag it on the floor!

AKIRA YUKI

He may speak "One-ara ara!" like a tiny voice, but Akira is at least the martial arts master. And although he's cute looking, Akira still pulls angry expressions. Particularly amusing is Akira's stage. Previously modified as the actual temple where his fighting style was invented, the stage has been comically defaced with the lion statue now turned into a comedy club animal. There's also pictures of leaping rabbits dotted about the background.

AGE: 28	SEX: M	BLOOD TYPE: B
NATIONALITY: JAPANESE	HEIGHT: 6'10"	
BIRTHDAY: 25/1/58	WEIGHT: 16 stone	

FIGHTING STYLE: HARDY/SHARON
OCCUPATION: KING-FU TEACHER
HOBBY: KING-FU



SARAH

YOUR PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN EVALUATED BY THE OFFICIAL PPK JUDGES AND YOU ARE RECALLED RANKED

12th GRADE

USE B SHOULD BROWN AT LEAST ONCE EACH STRIKE!
PUSH ON TO THE NEXT STRIKE!

As with VF, Fighting Birds is just one of the options.



Yes, we are angry!



They roll into boxes when attacked.

JEFFREY McWILD

The fearsome shark-fighting, penetration master has been reduced to a fearful softy. When selected to fight, or when he wins, tears well up in his eyes. Jeffrey definitely has the best roundabout. A sort of slow reggae jamstone of his old tune. There's also a big cartoon shark sticking out of the water on his stage. For a good replay, do his triple headbutt combo. All the more painful thanks to his massive forehead.

AGE: 28	SEX: M	BLOOD TYPE: A
NATIONALITY: AUSTRALIA	HEIGHT: 6'11 1/2"	
BIRTHDAY: 29/3/57	WEIGHT: 18 stone	

FIGHTING STYLE: PUNCHDRUM
OCCUPATION: FISHINGMAN
HOBBY: BEYOND BEYOND



CHILD'S PLAY!

Considering VFs is possibly the most intricate beat 'em up ever made, it might seem like a strange game to push to a younger audience. But in fact, the Virtua Fighter combat system has always been intended for gamers of all ages. When Yu Suzuki was originally thinking up the first VF, he wanted a control method that, in his own words "even a five-year old would be able to enjoy". The result was the three-button Casual-FanCh Kick system. From this, research was carried out to see what the most natural button

combination were. These were then used to produce VF's super-inclusive gameplay.

Admittedly though, while basic moves such as the PPK combo are easily performed by even a novice, trickier moves (Well's helicopter throw or Akira's surprise exchange, for example) are somewhat tougher. For VF Kids though, Am2 have taken steps to make even these moves accessible, thanks to, the Kids' combo!





BOYISH CHARM!

So here's the plan. Take the supremely addictive gameplay of VF2 and package it in a game with a cuddlier image. Turning the fighters into kids is not such an unusual notion in Japan, super-deformed (the name for this kind of treatment) characters are widely popular. Even the Street Fighters have had it happen to them. So, giving the Virtua Fighters child-like proportions makes perfect sense. More than just another big-heads cheats though, VF Kids is a very thoughtful image reworking. Chubbier versions of the backdrops, cutscene remakes of the music, and personality-enhancing facial expressions are all part of the Kids credo.

The result is a game that Sega reckons will appeal to people previously uninterested in fighting games, while still drawing in the hardcore gamer with familiar—but even more advanced—gameplay!



Multiple angle replays in 360-effect, 60frames.

CHARACTER

Definitely one of the most popular Kids version fighters, the silent, deadly ninj has been transformed into a evil little plate—complete with fangs. He grins wickedly when he wins, or when a new challenger enters a fight. And his head-butts deep attack looks more insane than ever. What's more, his head-rings huge when it's knocked into the floor! Flipping a big-headed opponent into the air is superb, but it's his fealdie that produces a replay.

AGE: 25	SEX: M	BLOOD TYPE: B
NATIONALITY: JAPANESE	HEIGHT: 5'11"	
BIRTHDAY: 6/6/70	WEIGHT: 130lbs	

FIGHTING STYLE	MAIWAJI
OCCUPATION	
BOSS?	



More than just see graphics plastered over old incarnations, 17 Kids fighters are included. As soon here when the big-headed fighters deck backwards when knocking.



ONE KIDS' COMBO PLEASE!

A new Saturn-specific feature, Kids Mode is a handicap option that makes the likes of Autoblock in X-Men look like expert player territory. When selected, it allows players to perform normally advanced moves with staggeringly simple multiple button presses. Counter moves, complex throws—suddenly even the most inept game-player can produce on-screen results that arcade masters would be impressed by. Working out how to do specific moves in Kids Mode is actually quite tricky though. You see, once you're tapping away at close quarters, moves just happen! "Yeh, I meant to do that all along, ahem!"



SARAH BRYANT

The expertest punch-kick fighter has kept all her speed and power. In fact, the extra head size of the fighters means her combos are more effective than ever. However, moves like her triple-kick have lost some of their potency, mainly because her legs are just too short! Her famous quote "Better run home to mamma now!" sells the game more than ever! It's all the more cheeky too, because of the cute smily expression on her face.

AGE: 25	SEX: F	BLOOD TYPE: AB
NATIONALITY: AMERICAN	HEIGHT: 5'11"	
BIRTHDAY: 4/7/72	WEIGHT: 110lbs	

FIGHTING STYLE	MAIWAJI
OCCUPATION	SHULING STUNNIT
BOSS?	NOY STORM



Little event modes have been included, such as works coming off the running fighters list. But she comes out of her mouth when they're hit. It's not disgusting though. Just big cartoon droplets.

PUPPY POWER!

Virtua Fighter Kids is a subtle, but definite redefinition of the VF game engine. For true VF fans, we reckon it's essential to have. Your more average VFz owning gamer-player though, may not find enough reason to own such a similar title.

Nonetheless, we reckon Sega Europe should definitely bring this game out over here. Perhaps even bring out a VFz-VF Kids double-pack and use it to relaunch VFz all over again. Who knows, with the irresistible Kids on their side, we could have a Virtua Fighter phenomenon to match that of Japan.



WOLF HAWKFIELD



The coolest thing about Wolf, is that his leg stage new features the surround leg fence. Something that was noticeably absent from Saturn VFz. It also features lots of little snowmen.

Wolf's throwing and body slapping moves are more dramatic than ever. Specially his spinning throw. The camera zooms around him in a mad fashion! And pulling off a leg counter looks brilliant in his haunted style. Obviously AMA think so, cos they give you a replay of it!

AGE: 21	SEX: M	BLOOD TYPE: B
NATIONALITY: CANADIAN	HEIGHT: 5ft 2	
BIRTHDAY: 8/2/66	WEIGHT: 15 stone	

FIGHTING STYLE: PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

OCCUPATION: WRESTLER

HOBBY: BARBQUE



HERE COMES A NEW CHALLENGER

Although there's a home specific two-player option, VF Kids is best played in one-player arcade mode. For one reason - the 'Challenger Comes' flash. When a new player enters, the fighters currently on-screen look around startled. Even if they're floored. It really is constantly funny!



Seeing Wolf enter as the Sarah's stormy arrival. At all the way, who knows, this is probably the best because. It's all jolly though.



Another example of VF Kids two nights. A second one such as this, with more drama to the move.

SHUM DI

The drunken master is now just a scuzzed baby.

Nevertheless, his Top Duck punch still gets him tanked up enough to perform all his staggering moves. His Drunken Flat attack, where he rattles around an opponent, looks bizarre due to the falling limbs. Strongest bit of the whole game is Shum's backslap. His head is too big for his hands to reach the ground, so his hand seems to strongly pass through the floor! It's not glitchy though, just weird!

AGE: 64	SEX: M	BLOOD TYPE: B
NATIONALITY: CHINESE	HEIGHT: 5ft 6	
BIRTHDAY: 2/7/42	WEIGHT: 11 stone	

FIGHTING STYLE: DRUNK KUNG-FU

OCCUPATION: SERIAL MURDER

HOBBY: DRINKING



See there's new bottle. It's not a Zero Tea one



In Japan, VF Kids features special placement. Some of Zero Tea are held by Jody and Shaz, and Pat even has her own Energy drink stage. Because they've been removed in the UK, there isn't this extra stage. Jody and Sarah's Chicago stage is one gone because it has a Zero Tea billboard in it.



The Zero Tea is parting in Japanese VF Kids in view of a huge campaign. It even has a Jody Tea tasting screen between rounds. But here though, too, Jody isn't drinking any!





SHOWCASE

MOVE OVER OLD-TIMER

VF Kids isn't just a surface refresh of VF's with a junior button-mashing option though. As you'd expect from AM2, they've taken this opportunity to refine the gameplay, making it more dynamic than ever. For starters, the game is a full 20% faster than VF6, and it shows. The speed at which combos are launched on opponents is staggering, emphasised by the more punchy impact sounds (they sound closer to VF than VF6).

What's more, the big-heads prove to be more than just a cosmetic addition. These extra large targets, coupled with the extra speed, have created new combos. Extra hits can now be strung into moves, making for even more impressive fights. What's more, when low-blocking, the fighters now sway backwards. Such is the size of their craniums, they actually need to dodge hits!

These over-ripe Pappy heads also add centrifugal force to the fighters. Most notably when KO'd. Finish off an opponent with certain combos, and the final hit sends them across nearly the whole distance of the ring. Sometimes, they even slide farther when they land.

Other moves are considered worthy of replay. Taking a leaf out of Fighting Vipers' book, when a special attack is successfully implemented, multiple-view replays are shown. Likewise, new angles are employed throughout fights. During Wolf's spinning throw, for example, the camera stays fixed on Wolf's face, while the back-drop zooms around. Added drama is definitely part of the Kids package!



Wolf prepares to fight himself. Scarry, the new character looks just like Wolf (well, the little right eye does not tip).



The all-new, hyper-cute Batsu Entry screen.



PERSONALITY

They're about 20 syndicate boss they were personality than before. In fact, she has the personality of all the fighters whose names she uses. Her face changes to look similar to theirs, as does their attack. Also, her eyes go empty red when she's attacked. But she smiles quite nicely when she wins, so that's okay. Although accessing her is the easiest in a secret, as Saturn II's exactly the same as in VF6 (Down-Up-Right-A-Left). For a girl version - Down-Up-Left-A-Right!



most works now appear to emphasize the power of the strikes. Also, a great deal of attention has been paid to the fighters' expressions. They all look very pained when hit. Don't worry though, they're usually happy when they win.



PAI CHAN

Let's unruly daughter looks more childish than ever. Even her embroidered jacket legs (which was previously a trademark) is now a cartoon chicken. As with Kage, when Pai loses her hat or hairband, it looks slightly huge as it lies on the floor. Moves like her leaping double-kick produce an impressive replay, but her annoying one-top kick - which skillily flips opponents up - is more annoying than ever, thanks to the ease at which it catches the opponent's head.



AGE: 10	SEX: F	BLOOD TYPE: B
NATIONALITY: CHINESE	HEIGHT: 5'11"	
BIRTHDAY: 12/15/75	WEIGHT: Extreme	

FIGHTING STYLE: CHINESE
OCCUPATION: ACTRESS
HOBBY: DANCING



AGE: 4	SEX: F	BLOOD TYPE: F
NATIONALITY: TROLL	HEIGHT: 6'11"	
BIRTHDAY: EVERY DAY	WEIGHT: 4 TONS	
FIGHTING STYLE:		
OCCUPATION:		
HOBBY:		



SEGA

THE ARCADE WINNERS

SEGA's reputation has been forged in one of the competitive markets in the world... the arcades! Though they've always managed to bring their arcade hits home and the family have a piece of the action, from their early licenses on popular early 80's consoles (see last month), right up to the present day Saturn. Many of the games shown on these pages, such as Rampage or Alien Syndrome, contain such original ideas (that haven't been re-used) we're surprised they haven't been updated for the Saturn. Maybe there's hope for them in the Sega Ages series...



NAME: COMBLADE
YEAR: 1990 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣

FRONT MOUNTED RECOILING LIGHT GUNS AND A CROOBY LICENSE

COMMENTS: Based on the famous and classic shoot 'em up Thunderblade, Comblade is a pseudo-sequel which has you gunning from the Chopper instead of piloting it. Not usually known, but pretty good all the same.



NAME: AFTER BURNER

YEAR: 1982 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣

AN AWESOME HYDRAULIC CABINET THROWING YOU RIGHT INTO THE ACTION

COMMENTS: More of a white knuckle ride than a game, this is still ace, especially in the 84k6 cabinet.

NAME: QUARTET

YEAR: 1985 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣

ONE OF THE FIRST SIMULANEOUS FOUR-PLAYER GAMES DEVELOPED

COMMENTS: A team of four maniacs take on the brilliant horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up.



NAME: GUNBLADE

YEAR: 1990 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣

FRONT MOUNTED RECOILING LIGHT GUNS AND A CROOBY LICENSE

COMMENTS: Based on the famous and classic shoot 'em up Thunderblade, Comblade is a pseudo-sequel which has you gunning from the Chopper instead of piloting it. Not usually known, but pretty good all the same.

NAME: DESERT TANK

YEAR: 1994 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣

ANOTHER OF SEGA'S SUPERB HYDRAULIC CABINETS - THIS ONE'S A TWO-SEATER.

COMMENTS: Surprisingly Desert Tank didn't really take off that well. It's a grade A tank Master will worth a pop.



NAME: RAID CHASE 2

YEAR: 1992 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣

SEGA AREN'T AFRAID TO TRADE ON THE INNOVATION OF THEIR PREVIOUS GAMES.

COMMENTS: Utilising the same cabinet technology as the original Raid Chase, this sequel was equally amazing. Not one you'll ever see coming to future as the cabinet was such an intrinsic part of its appeal and gameplay.

NAME: SUPER MONACO GP

YEAR: 1990 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣

A HYDRAULIC CABINET AND ABSOLUTELY AMAZING (FOR THE TIME) GRAPHICS

COMMENTS: One of the titles which made Sega an arcade force in the Magalover years was this spectacular racer, which was never topped until the advent of Virtua Racing. Which was also by Sega.





NAME: DAYTONA GP
YEAR: 1994 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣
 A CUT-DOWN VERSION OF THE DAYTONA CABINET FOR ONE-PLAYER. SMALLER.
COMMENTS: GP cabinets are designed for arcades too small or poor to afford the four-up version, although four can be linked.

NAME: VIRTUA FIGHTER 2
YEAR: 1995 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣
 BACK-TO-BACK HEAD-TO-HEAD CABINETS AND THE BEST GAME EVER, MAYBE.
COMMENTS: The ultimate two-player fighting game which stunned purists with its incredible graphics. Not amazing. Well done, there.



NAME: DAYTONA USA
YEAR: 1994 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣
 FOUR-PLAYER UNID HYDRAULIC CABINETS, AND EVEN A SECRET CHECK WOOD.
COMMENTS: Designed with group play in mind, Daytona was the unofficial fellow up to Virtua Racing, and the feature mapping and timing commentary made it sweet.



NAME: ERONDO RACES
YEAR: 1987 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣
 CABINET MOUNTED BIKE YOU HAD TO WHISPER YOURSELF TO GO OVER JUMPS.
COMMENTS: Cutting in on the SIMA cross, this was an interesting game with a cool 1-infinity cabinet. Small child here had real difficulty watching those jumps, though I know I was one. I couldn't wheeler the bike. It was too heavy.

NAME: GALAXY FORCE
YEAR: 1986 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣
 HYDRAULIC CABINET ENCLOSED AS CHROMATIC MODERN SURREALIST ART.
COMMENTS: Looking back, Galaxy Force wasn't perhaps the bested shooter in the world. But it was one of the first with a Hydro-Cab (or whatever that fancy industry name is). Probably about 10p a go now.



NAME: RAMPAGE
YEAR: 1987 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣
 THREE PLAYERS, NO DISCRETELY POINT SCRIPT DESTRUCTION.
COMMENTS: Smash down buildings, eat soldiers, smash everything with three giant monsters on the rampage. Let down by a lack of variety, but ripe for a re-vamp.



NAME: HANG ON
YEAR: 1985 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** ♣
 LIFE-SIZE SIT-ON BIKE CABINET THE PLAYER PHYSICALLY "BANKS" TO TURN MONITOR ABOVE HANDLEBARS.
COMMENTS: Everyone went crazy for Hang On, from little kids who could barely move the thing to real-life heavy bikers. Follow-up Super Hang-On had a similar, better bike so wee players could actually steer the thing. A very imaginative cabinet.



**NAME: STAR WARS****YEAR: 1994 SPECIAL FEATURES: ♣**

AMAZING LIGHTS, WEIRD TWO-PLAYER MODE, 75 HIGHERS, ADMIRAL ACCRAB.

COMMENTS: Superb Virtua spin-off which casts you as an X-Wing pilot. Two player version has one as pilot and one as gunner. The graphics are superb (especially the Death Star) and it has Admiral Ackbar. Best of all, it has a seat.**NAME: AS-1****YEAR: 1994 SPECIAL FEATURES: ♣**

THE AS-1 IS A SPECIAL OFFICE: A HYDRAULIC CABINET WITH NOT MUCH LEG ROOM.

COMMENTS: Limited interaction (only two buttons and no joystick) but the AS-1 is certainly a thrilling experience. Computer generated "movies" are displayed on a big screen at the front, whilst players are thrown around violently.**NAME: VIRTUA GGP****YEAR: 1994 SPECIAL FEATURES: ♣**

THE REBIRTH OF THE GUN GANG. VIRTUA GRAPHICS ENABLE MORE REALISM.

COMMENTS: Reborn VC the idea of pin-point shooting an opponent as swirling around a level was pretty tedious. All of a sudden the pool tables for gun games are expanded and the game is suddenly used again. Huh?**NAME: VIRTUA FIGHT****YEAR: 1995 SPECIAL FEATURES: ♣**

THE GAME WHICH KICK-STARTED THE WHOLE JO POLYGON CRAZE.

COMMENTS: Oh, I remember when VF first appeared and we all tripped down the arcade to stand there sick (meant for a half hour before we got a go). And then we really did. Fear - FOLB - versus Polygon Madness.**NAME: OUT RUN****YEAR: 1987 SPECIAL FEATURES: ♣**

FERRARI SHAPED HYDRAULIC CABINET WITH BIG SPEAKERS.

COMMENTS: One of the most famous games ever. Cool cabinet not pictured.**NAME: VIRTUAL ON****YEAR: 1996 SPECIAL FEATURES: ♣**

INCREDIBLE VISUALS, AND A REFRESHING BLEND OF SHOOTING AND FIGHTING.

COMMENTS: Despite having a really nice name Virtual On is one of Sega's most accomplished game designs. It's a robot battle game fought over huge arenas with guns and martial arts. It's brilliant.**NAME: THUNDER BLADE****YEAR: 1996 SPECIAL FEATURES: ♣**

SWIFTELY NON-HYDRAULIC CABINET LEAVES SWITCH RESPECTIVE, TOP DOWN TO SIDE VIEW.

COMMENTS: Thunder Blade blew everyone away on launch thanks to its superb graphics (which were look cool) and novelty cabinet, which had the player above left and right by swivelling the seat. Brings new meaning to the phrase "sit and solve". Was very good at the time.**NAME: SEGA RALLY****YEAR: 1995 SPECIAL FEATURES: ♣**

ULTRA ACE GRAPHICS, LINKED HYDRAULIC CABINETS AND ALL-ROUND EXCELLENCE.

COMMENTS: This is one game everyone knows about. Even if you haven't played it in the arcade. Chances are you've driven most the Saturn conversion (or the demo version we gave away in issue 2). Windows and lovely.



NAME: MANK'IT

YEAR: 1990 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** DOWNWARD-HANGING-ON STYLE SEATS THAT LOOK LIKE NINJA MOTORCYCLES FROM *YU-PU*

COMMENTS: One of, if not the, most thrilling races of all time. *Mank'it*, in its way to Saturn NOW AS WE SPEAK, is another game which entices non-gamers into the arcade. And so it should, sporting such lesser graphics and moving at the incredible pace at which it does. Lord knows what the Model 4 board racing titles will look like, but how can this be!

NAME: INDI 500

YEAR: 1990 **SPECIAL FEATURES:** NAMED AFTER FAMOUS EXPLORER DR JONES, BUT IT'S A RACE GAME

COMMENTS: Here in the spirit of Super Monaco GP that Sega Rally, this Model 4 game harks back to the good old days of Formula 1 racing. As a result, it's impressively fast, and neck-and-neck with manual gears. Good stuff!

NAME: SUPER MEGALO 2 **VERSUS CITY** **NEW ASTRO CITY**

COMMENTS: Three of Sega's black cabinets. Super Megalo 2 is a giant screen, sit-down cabinet for two players, low-low and spacious and for big arcades only. Versus City is a back-to-back two-player cabinet designed for Virtua Fighter 2 (but compatible with anything). It facilitates head-to-head play without you being able to actually see your opponent's face. The New Astro City cabinet is a nice thin space saver with a large screen and decent speakers.



SUPER MEGALO 2

VERSUS CITY

NEW ASTRO CITY

AND THERE'S MORE...



Space robots or from showing you EVERYTHING Sega have done in depth, including Space Harrier (the first ever hydraulic cabinet in the world), the Rylee (a cabinet which revolves upside down and right around the sides) and a few others of importance. But here's a cheat of all the rest we could think of. But have we got them all? If you can think of one we've missed, write in to the usual address. We're offering a prize to whoever names the most.



OUTBUNKERS

VIRTUA FIGHTER 3

VIRTA COP 2

DYNAMITE DICK

FIGHTING VEPERS

SONIC ARCADE

G-LOC

SONIC FIGHTERS

SPACE HARRIER

SKY TARGET

S.O.J

ALIEN STORM

ALIEN SYNDROME

R 200

DISKTRILETE

WORLD SCY

WING WARS

RACING BIRD

RAZ MOBILE

LAST DRINK

POWERDRIFT

GOLDEN KEY

TIME TRAVELLER

BANG ON



Bikini girls with machine guns



Core first revealed **Tomb Raider** at the spring ECTS and everyone was pretty **gobsmacked** with just how impressive it looked. Like **Nights** and the forthcoming **Sonic X-Treme**, **Tomb Raider**

takes you into a **full 360 3D environment**. **ROB BRIGHT** enjoys the **freedom**.



And the legend says that the ancients preserved a special body of knowledge – a unique mystically transcendent knowledge, that was to be passed on after their empires crumbled, by the select few who had managed to initiate themselves via its sacred rituals and techniques of semi-conscious exploration. Only now, as the time of universal truth approaches can I, the last guardian of the "Blindfold Temples of Mt. Zyntra", reveal this knowledge to you, brethren of the Saturn...

...er, hang on... ummm... oh what was I?.. ahh bigger, I should have written it down. Oh well, can't be helped, can't be helped. Instead I'll tell you about **Tomb Raider**, a game no doubt programmed by fellow "initiates", concealing as it does on the mystery surrounding the "Sarc", an object of ancient and unknown powers. **Lara Croft** is the action-woman who's been employed to retrieve it, but who has subsequently decided to go it alone after discovering that her employer's were simply using her as a pawn in a much bigger game.

With the suspense-laden plot neatly laid out, this 3D action adventure kicks off. Part puzzle, part shoot 'em up, **Tomb Raider** is set over four levels, each level subdividing into zones. The environments are as you'd expect – ice caves and chies, Greek Colosseums, Egyptian temples and even an Atlantean pyramid. In each part of the game the action focuses on different aspects of the adventure, with some zones dedicated mostly to exploring or puzzle solving and others to some traditional blast 'em up chaos.

Tomb Raider is now deep in development, and as you can no doubt tell from the screenshots, it's looking very impressive indeed. A lot of time has been spent working on the finer details in an effort to really build a sense of atmosphere in the game. The use of varying camera angles, the fluid movement of the sprites and the range of things that **Lara** is capable of, all work to contribute towards it.

Core are working towards an October/November release for **Tomb Raider**, and proving all goes to plan this could be one of the big Christmas hits. We'll be keeping a eye on how things are shaping up...



HIGH NOON

Lara starts off the game with her two pistols which have an infinite amount of ammo. She wears these in classic gunslinger fashion, one on each hip and has to press the draw button to use them. When she draws them they'll immediately lock on to the target or targets, providing it's in front rather than behind her. If there's only one target then both guns focus on that. **Lara** actually spends a lot of time without using her weapons, keeping her hands free to climb things or grab onto ledges if she happens to be falling.



LOST EMPIRES

There are four different levels in Tomb Raider, and each level is split into zones. The themes on each level concentrate on one particular usage of ancient culture and mythology. In the first three levels, Lara is required to find the three parts of the Sarcophagus in order to gain entry to the last level. Anyway, here's an example of what you can expect...

LEVEL 1: VILCABAMBA

This is based on an ancient Inca city, and it features some of the classic architecture the South American culture was famous for, including lots of oblique temples where ritual sacrifice took place. Because it's the first level, most of the action will be based around getting used to controlling Lara, so there won't be as many enemies here.



'Try walk, swim, and try not to worry now' as the great Inca said. And 'floating high and low' of course.

LEVEL 2: LABYRINTH

Moving on to some classical Greek/Roman architecture here, which means plenty of huge geometrically precise pillars, the imposing colonnades and lots of heroic artwork. There'll be more in the way of enemies in this level and lots of long, eerie corridors. There's also the Roman baths where Lara decides to take a dip.



GIRL ABOUT TOWN

If you think that Tomb Raider is at heart a shoot 'em up, you'd be quite wrong. Lara spends much of her time exploring, solving puzzles, and clambering about the diverse surroundings she finds herself in. To do this, she needs to be pretty fit and supple. As well as the usual athletic distinctions of being able to run swiftly, jump long distances and somersault, she is also something of a Chris Brownrigton when it comes to climbing. Provided she hasn't got any weapons in her hands, she can grab onto ledges by her fingertips after a particularly long jump, and go about scaling the walls, just so long as there's the odd knobbly thing to grip on to. There are also some parts of the game when she has to demonstrate her swimming prowess.



This is how they design the levels in TOMB RAIDER.



LEVEL 3: EGYPTIAN

You can't really have a 'variety pack' of ancient culture without the Egyptians, so here they are complete with walls covered in hieroglyphics, plenty of gold relics and a sarcophagus now and then. The Egyptian level features some of the toughest puzzles in the game because it is the entrance to the lost Atlantis pyramid.



Lara is a real gung-ho kinda girl. So don't try out any stunts that up here on her or she'll pump you full of lead.



This is one of the characters Lara can expect to confront in the game.

LEVEL 4: ATLANTEAN PYRAMID

Once Lara manages to penetrate the pyramid it would seem all is quiet. However once one of the boss enemies activates it, things rapidly go berserk. Lara has to make it to the control centre, destroy it, and escape as the pyramid is exploding about her. Phew!



WATCH OUT FOR THE - ARGH!

One thing that Tomb Raider is full of is traps. There are loads of different ones to watch for like the classic crumbling floor, denoted by cracks in the floor tiles, or doors in the floor that open when they're bod on. Some of the traps use films for inspiration, like the rolling balls reminiscent of Raiders of the Lost Ark, as are the blow darts and fireballs which are activated when Lara foolishly walks over a pressure pad. There are also spikes which emerge from the floor if Lara runs over them, causing some lovely impaling, something that's a bit like an old game called Prince of Persia.



That looks scary loads - well less head! Simple.



FILM '96

One of the principle attractions of Tomb Raider is likely to be the effect the camera has on the proceedings. Trying to make a game look convincingly like a film is nothing new - a game like Resident Evil on the PlayStation has been very successful at attempting to do this. With Tomb Raider there are four different camera angles in all, and they are employed at different stages of the game to enhance the atmosphere. Here's a look at them in more detail.

THE SPOT CAMERA: This is the view employed for the vast majority of the time. The action is viewed from just over Lara's left or right shoulder depending on which is most suitable at the time. When Lara is still, you also have the opportunity to inspect your surroundings a bit more by moving the camera about with the direction buttons. This includes things like looking over a ledge to see if it's a big drop, or looking up to inspect whether an obstacle can be climbed.



Bazza says: Used in a lot of slasher type films to create suspense. You know the kind - you're just behind the distressed female as she nervously wanders down the long dark corridor.

THE DYNAMIC PAN: Simply for a bit of show this one. The camera rotates all the way around Lara enabling you to view her from any angle and at any distance, providing there are no obstacles in the way of course. This is simply used for dramatic effect.



Bazza says: It's kind of like the rotating they do in films when two people are dancing at a ball or something. It's also often used with a touch of distorting depth-of-field to convey someone who's going a bit loopy on a steady person.

THE EXTERNAL VIEW: This is used when Lara moves into or certain areas or performs certain actions. It either works as a cut or a flowing change in angle and it's generally employed to give you a fresh perspective on a situation and reveal items that might be of interest.



Bazza says: The simple cut technique is as old as cinema itself, known in the business as 'montage' you know. The flowing change of angle maintains a sense of rhythm and pace.

THE THREE POINT VIEW: This is a bit of a cunning idea actually. When Lara finds herself near an object or something else that's important, the camera focuses on the object, putting Lara between it but in line with the camera. This sounds a bit confusing, but what it means in real terms is that the camera's angle will move to keep both Lara and the object in the frame.



Bazza says: Err...



ALIEN

SYNDROME

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE **ALIEN TRILOGY** WAS FIRST PLANNED (FOR THE MEGA-CD!), AND IT'S FINALLY MADE IT TO A WAY MORE INTERESTING SEGA FORMAT. WE HIT PROBE'S CROYDON HQ FOR A SNEAK PREVIEW...



ALIEN TRILOGY **SHOWCASE**

Let's hear real aliens aren't this mean, or we'll spend the rest of the year cleaning the crypts after they've peeped round for us.



That there is the Cyber-Jack, he obviously runs a mechanical horse or something.



Hey there kids, Agent Scudder from the Alliance Real Society here. Those wacky kids from Saturn Mag have asked me to introduce this Alien Trilogy showcase because I'm such an expert on all things extra-terrestrial. Now you might think I'm just some old old handy man with a lot of bad

jumpers who never got over watching *The Day the Earth Stood Still* as a kid, and you'd be quite right.

In fact, it was my career teacher who came up with the idea of launching AARS, because the only words I would say of age 16 were "Okada Barada Nikou" over an ever again like some kind of space-age Benedictine monk. And what a brilliant idea that was, because now eccentric millionaires fund my real hobbyist career, and I get to go on the telly every time they need a loose-ous pre-alien "expert".

So far I've been on *ITN*, *The Big Breakfast* and *Richard Littlejohn Live* and *Uncut*. I didn't like that last one, because he called me a sad failure in front of everyone. Well, Ricky, just you wait until the Martians attack - I'll make sure you're first in line to be scorched by a laser ray. And they'll make me King of Earth for paving the way for their attack.

Anyway, as a rationally-minded adult and a natural skeptic I am of course wary of conclusively saying that aliens are real.

BUT THEY ARE. THEY ARE! THEY'VE GOT BIG BUG EYES AND SPACE SHIPS AND THEY'RE COMING! MY GOD, THEY'RE COMING FOR US ALL!!

However, films such as the Alien Trilogy themselves are obviously fictional real xenophobic, constantly portraying otherworldly life as ugly, unchivalled aggressive predators

with no human emotions. When in real life all the alien blokes are like that, but the girl aliens all look like Jana Fawda in *Barbaric*, and they all fancy me. Genes such as this are an evil influence on our children, and mean when we finally do make contact our first instinct will be to destroy all the aliens in mediocrity to save us the bother of a war. This is wrong. What we should do is walk peacefully into their mines and stonecades under the command of me, Governor Scudder, Supreme Ruler of the Blue Planet.

If you'd like to find out more about aliens, try watching Dolph Lundgren's *Dark Angel*, that's spot on, I reckon. Or you could write to AARS and request our newsletter - *The Aliens Friend* - and a copy of my book, *How to Sclate Me When the Aliens Make Me King*.

Watch the alien, duh, duh,
Agent Scudder, AARS



That the look out of those here exterminator. It's just what they do.



ABOVE: O - are ya looking at me, pal? Are ya? Come on - say something. Best as well as stupid are ya? Don't just stand there - what have you got to say for yourself? Right you've asked for it you make some, I hate it when crates start going on top.

BELOW: A chest barrier traps us on the far right hand side, baby.





HOW YOU CAN KILL

If you're going to make a game about killing loads of aliens, one thing you can't afford to scrim on is the hardware. Luckily, *Alien Trilogy* has been programmed by Probe, who've learnt all about violence from their many *Mortal Kombat* conversions. Whilst Ripley (that's you) starts the game with a pretty feeble handgun, many bigger and more deadly shooters are hidden around the levels. No aliens are gonna kick sand in your face, that's for sure. As long as you don't run out of ammunition, when they'll eat your head.

DOWN HANDGUN

This is what you start the game with. Good for shooting humans, as any *Compton* gangbsta will tell you, but bad for killing aliens. As they won't. Anyway, ditch this and get something good as soon as you can, using it only against weak fans to use ammo for your big guns.



SHOTGUN

The wide spread of the shotgun makes it good for long-range peppering of your face, but it becomes less powerful the further away they are. So if you're a scardy and like running away, this is the gun for you.



PULSE RIFLE

A combination of machine gun and grenade launcher, this is really two weapons in one - like those clever thumpcoos you can buy. This is the weapon you'll probably get the most use out of, as it's great for sweeping rooms of aliens.



FLAMETHROWER

A bit of an outdated concept to find its way into a sci-fi game, this horrific piece of barbaric weaponry doesn't scare full-blown aliens much. It is, though, very useful indeed for destroying alien eggs and face huggers because it covers a large spread.



SMART GUN

Only very lucky players will get hold of this, the hardest thumbstick in the land. Ammunition for the smart gun is highly limited, because otherwise the game would probably be very stey. Use wisely. Not against walls and corpses.



(ARROW) This is one of the evil *Devisive* *Savers* guards. They look no taller than the first *Wages* *Barney* from *The Doors* *Strike Back*, all they want is profits. (HOLD) Hold fire then all that's here 'til they see'n mess with you again! Be in



NOW HEAR THIS

The thing about CDs, other than there being small and you being able to eat your dinner off them, is that they're really good for storing sound on. Hence, one should imagine, their day job is a music recording format. Probe are no slouches in the brain department, and have picked up on this unique ability, utilising it for their own evil ends. These ends consist of sampling loads and loads of sound effects and snippets of speech from the films and transposing them to the game. For example, in one level you're confronted with a wall full of cocooned colonists, each of whom whimpers "Wah me" when you go near them - just like in the second film (because it is from the second film). Over 60% of the effects, including the aliens screeches, are taken directly from the movies. Which is quite clever.



That's what happens when an alien walks with a dog. It looks real.



Wow, that looks prettier in *Immense*, *Immense*, come out of dark and shiny. Like your hands.





HOW YOU CAN DIE

The thing with living is that it ends. We've all got to go sometime, some ways messier than others. As previously stated, shooting my way out of Alien Hell wouldn't be my preferred ticket-punching method, but the number and variety of threats on offer in *Alien Trill* would indicate that it is probably Ripley's. Along with the multitudinous human and anomorphic tentacles wandering around, the environment itself throws up new ways for someone to die. Falling down a long way, running into scalding hot steam issuing from pipes – all these things and more cause damage to fragile Ripley, who is, let's face it, only a girl. Plus the aliens have acid for blood, which has a tendency to splash over your arse and pool on the floor when you're blowing bits of them away. This is deadlier than you would believe, so watch where you're walking.



I WANT TO EAT YOUR BRAIN!

Frankly if for one don't fancy the idea of shooting my way out of a dingy industrial complex crawling with deadly aliens. Now that's just my opinion, and it doesn't mean I'm berating shooting your way out of an industrial complex etc etc. But if I changed my mind, I certainly want to know, at the very least, what those aliens are like. Well they're all different in *Alien Trill*, although many of them look very similar. Some are faster, others stronger or more intelligent. Some of them like shopping. Each of the enemy favours listed below vary in their individual characteristics (which apparently took about a year and a half to do), so don't underestimate them.

EGGS



As actual threat to the player, but they look ugly. Don't look at them for too long or you'll feel uneasy.

FACE HUGGERS



Really built and easy to kill, but hard to kill. Thanks to their small size and speedy movement. Sorry. Pop 'em out of eggs.

HUMAN GUARDS



Employed by your company to stop you killing all the aliens so they can use them in a war or something like that.

ANDROID GUARDS



The same as humans, but tougher and with white blood. Or whatever fluid or whatever mechanical stuff it is.

SAMURI GUARDS



Really really really hard guards. Not as hard as aliens, but probably about as hard as you. Kill them all!

DOG ALIENS



Aliens that have protruded teeth claps. They walk funny, but don't laugh at them because they're still evil and will kill you if you hit them.

WARRIOR ALIENS



Aliens that have protruded inside humans. These comprise the majority of the enemies you'll face. They're really easy and very hard to kill.

QUEEN ALIEN



The mother of all aliens, the Queen Alien is absolutely enormous. Testament to the power of the Saturn, and the power of aliens too. Kick rock hard.

DRINK ME

Never mind her garlic, guns or grenades, Ripley's biggest asset on her travels to death are her big pockets. And we mean HUGE, she can carry all sorts of stuff. Luckily there's all sorts of stuff for her to carry, most of it just sitting there on the floor waiting for her to pick up. Here's a quick rundown of the goodies on offer and what they can do for you.

ARMOUR VEST

Good bullet-stopping capabilities, this should protect you from the guards, until it gets shot to pieces. Don't expect it to save you from aliens, though.



MEDIKIT

An energy pot you can hang on to and use when you feel like it. Always hang on to a good stock of these, as there isn't always energy around when you need it (ie after a big fight).



SHOULDER LIGHT

Hands-free torch which is essential for traversing darkened areas as it allows you to see what's coming and where you're going. Doesn't have a brilliant range, mind.



ADRENALINE SHOT

Hard to find, but useful in the extreme. It's like a medical kit but replenishes twice as much energy. Don't try it at home if you scrape your knee or the ambulance will come.



HIGHT VISION GOGGLES

See in the dark, and look stupid, by wearing these. You're better off with the shoulder light if you can find it, because these aren't that efficient. Better than a poke in the eye with a sharp mandible, though.



AUTO MAPPER

This really sad kid I used to know at school used to use graph paper to draw maps of all his games. The auto mapper saves you from having to do the same thing, and ultimately gives you more time to spend cooking your tea.



IO CARD

Allows Ripley to get served in pubs. They also open doors, which is what you'll need them for in the game. Steal them from the bodies of dead people.



BOOTS

Made for walking, and that's just what they'll do. These might not seem like much of a power-up, but they're acid proof, which saves you from scorching your toesies of alien blood.



ENERGY

To put or static floor tile incarnations, you'll most likely need to collect lots of this to replenish the damage done by those out to kill you.



Grenades are good for blowing up large areas of things. Just not any objects. They're sure to be a firm favourite with them.



GONNA MAKE YOU MOVE

Motion capture - it's the latest technological fad that everyone's talking about. Well, everyone in one room in Manhattan about a year ago was, anyway. That's because they were actually capturing some motion at the time, to later be used in this game. What motion capture is, right, is putting these reflective ball things on people, right, and they like... move about and you capture it out of them. On a computer. And the computer joins the dots between the balls and it makes a sort of skeleton and a programmer puts nice textured graphics over it and it comes out like an alien. One single lucky actor went through all the motions for aliens, soldiers and probably some face huggers, which he could have done by putting his two hands together at the thumbs and scuttling them along the floor.





RAISE THE CHEQUERED FLAG!!!

It's all over! The Time Attack competition which began way back in Issue 4 has finally reached its conclusion. Now it's time for those responsible for the three fastest times to gather up their video evidence and get it over to our offices for detailed inspection.

THE STORY SO FAR

For Time Attack competition started way back in February and throughout a year some relatively leisurely times, the best of them being Treanor's 3:06.06. In the space of a month all top ten times were wiped out, and Checkpoint 3 saw the new leader, Dean Gohare, smash a full ten seconds off the record with a time of 3:06.06.

Impressive. Or so we thought until Checkpoint 5, when John Archer broke the three minute barrier with an amazing 2:58.45. Could it get any faster we thought? By Thunder youl Checkpoint 4 in Issue 8, the list to feature a top ten, now a phenomenal time of 2:48.33 by Andy C.R. Hoath, and a leader board full of amazing new times. So did the Heestler hang on to first place? You're about to find out because here are the final results of our Time Attack competition...



Practically unbelievable really isn't it! What we will cover at this stage is that this is the UNCONFIRMED final result. We've got to receive video evidence from any of the top three teams, and any sign of cheating or fibbing will result in immediate disqualification, general derision from the masses and the person immediately below moving up a place. However, if Mark Michael Nightingale and the two runners-up get their videos in promptly and all is well, we'll be showing you how these legendary times were achieved next month.

- FIRST PRIZE:** FREE SATURN GAMES FOR A YEAR, A SEGA RALLY JACKET AND A SEGA RALLY T-SHIRT!
SECOND PRIZE: TEN SATURN GAMES AND AN EXCLUSIVE AM3 SEGA RALLY JACKET AND T-SHIRT!
THIRD PRIZE: AN EXCLUSIVE AM3 SEGA RALLY JACKET AND A SEGA RALLY T-SHIRT!

TIME ATTACK WINNERS!

FIRST PLACE:		
Mark Michael Nightingale		2:48.33
SECOND PLACE:		
Graham Stone		2:54.00
THIRD PLACE:		
Andy Grant		2:48.00

4. STEVE MAITIN 2:57.00
5. MARK MICHAEL NIGHTINGALE 2:57.00
6. ANDY C.R. HOATH 2:48.33
7. ANDY C.R. HOATH 2:48.33
8. LEIGH STEVENSON 2:53.54
9. DARRAN WARE 2:53.50
10. NICHOLAS WARE 2:53.89



get
more
from your
SATURN

Jump higher
BIGGER
faster
better
more
skio levels

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HMV

GAME



BEATTIES

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Review Index

Just about everyone in the SEGA SATURN MAG offices is walking around with bags under their eyes that you could fit your weekly shopping in. Why? Because we've given up on stuff like going to bed and dreaming, and replaced it with NIGHTS. Instead, we start playing at about midnight with a good cup of hot chocolate, and eventually abandon it for breakfast. You might think this sounds a bit drastic but just you wait until you see it. Oh boy! NIGHTS aside, there are some other fine games to check out this month, and the odd lamer one of usual. So my darling friends, peruse the stuff that dreams are made of!



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BY	SEGA
PRICE	£79.99
STYLE	ADVENTURE
RELEASE	AUGUST



The wait is over, and the suspected Game of the Year is ready for release, and review. So has it been worth all the wasted drool? Or could Nights be a major league embarrassment to all concerned (especially us, who've given it all this coverage)?



Every so often a software house will bring a sudden surprise to you. This is generally when they've got something really brilliant up their sleeves which doesn't need several years of constant PR to get your attention. When the producers know they've got something special in their hands they'll go to great lengths to reduce the probability of journalists finding out anything about it until it's near enough to finished to be truly astounding. We didn't hear about NIGHTS until four months from the end of its year-long gestation period, and given that it's from Sonic Team, you'd think Sega would be only too happy to start shouting that they were working on a big money new production. Well, they didn't, and we're glad because it made the druck of seeing such an awesome title for the first time something quite tangible.



NIGHTS' big floppy shoes make Mac's flippers for one-wayer navigation. Mind the reverse controls, though.



You may have gathered through the extensive coverage we've given NIGHTS in previous issues that we think it's cooking. But then a single look at the screenshots would convince you of

that without us bothering to say a word. What makes NIGHTS so appealing is its concept and feel. This sounds fairly simple, but a lot of games you'll see on the shelves, whilst completely programmed and engaging to play or even innovative don't concentrate on how the player is going to feel when they're in the midst of playing it. The atmosphere of a game is often what elevates a title to classic status and NIGHTS has more atmosphere than a fully transformed Main with loads of plants and animals and no pollution. Plus the control system is so instinctive it pulls you straight into the action. This is one of those games that'll have you twisting around in your seat involuntarily mimicking the on-screen movements of NIGHTS. It transcends those early Sonic meets-Cos comparisons with its fluid snaking around.

The game mechanics are simple enough: the objectives you're set are easily understood, but much harder to accomplish. This is a game designed very much with the arcade playing reflexes and co-ordination crowd than platform puzzlers. Much like Sonic, strangely enough.

Visually NIGHTS is one of the most captivating games the Saturn has witnessed yet. The environments are rich in texture and detail, each level having a distinct individual personality. The animation is superb, and the bosses (most of which are HUGE) are worthy of particular note. The mad colour schemes the Team have used amplify the dream concept and give your eyes an

extreme outzone workout. However, NIGHTS isn't without its faults. The Nightmareians seem in the main levels (if which there are only a few) are quite bland, looking and don't really do very much. Obviously in a game played mostly against the clock, enemies are going to have a limited impact at best, but more time could have been spent on making your foes look as good as everything else. The other criticism is that NIGHTS isn't exactly what you could call massively difficult. Given a couple of days most reasonably accomplished gamers will have clocked it. However, the incentive is there to keep going back to each level until you've ranked as 'C' on every one, at which point we suspect new game options will open themselves up (although we're not sure).



However, even if this doesn't happen you'll still return to NIGHTS just for the joy of playing it, plus watching the Nightmareians evolve through the A life system is very jolly.

Basically, NIGHTS is everything it's cracked up to be. A real showcase for the Saturn, massively addictive and totally mind-blowing (unless they've got a PlayStation, then they'll be sick). Whatever game you're thinking of getting right now, put it on hold and get this instead. You won't regret it.

RAO



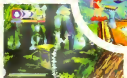
REVIEW

NIGHTS

TWIN S

100

YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Smashing through the irritating beebees in this stage yields top points. However, it's easy to lose blood yourself with debris.



BELOW: This is NIGHTS' hidden secret anniversary scene. It's better watch out though, as the ceiling collapses after a short while, dooming our errant NIGHTS. Not to be attempted with your new-found 3D character.



Designed to be the flagship title for the Saturn, NIGHTS combines classic gameplay qualities with the all-new possibilities opened up by 32-BIT technology. Awe inspiring.

graphics	97
sound	95
playability	97
lastability	90

overall

96%

Here we see little NIGHTS flying through some hoops. Doing this doesn't just reward him with all-important points, it also reestablishes his 3-D Dash ability bar. But you'd already know that if you'd read the Japanese. So do it now.



BT	CA
PRICE	£59.99
STYLE	RACING
RELEASE	OUT NOW

The Road Rash legacy has returned for one last outing on the Saturn. But, after four years, does it still have what it takes to thrash the pants off other racers? Or is it just destined for the scrap heap?



The Road Rash series has had a long and successful history on Sega consoles. In fact, when it was first released in 1990, it was just about the best thing going. After all, it included, blisteringly fast play, merciless violence and a great two player option too.

And after the first version, it seemed to get better and better, right up until the awesome title that was released on the 3DO a couple of years ago. In fact, the format hasn't changed at all since then, and it's largely this version that makes it on to the Saturn this month.

So for those of you who haven't had the pleasure of playing this on the 3DO (actually using your own one - there's one reason why you would have played this before) the version of Road Rash is played out in a variety of more urban settings. Like a very busy town for instance. Which means just one thing. Games. Yes, that's right, games. You can't win over or dodge but it's up to you, although we know the most entertaining option of the two

As usual, there's the usual options of clamp-on mode and one-off races (although there's no two player mode) and in addition to all the weapon-straining mauling, you can also steal your opponent's bike and ride off into the distance.

Before giving you the chance to win races more easily.

Of course, if you've played Road Rash before, you'll know that this is rather marvellous fun and it's a pretty long lasting affair too. However, the question has to be raised as to whether in these days of Sega Rally and even Daytona something like Road Rash can still provide the thrills that we've come to expect. And the answer is yes. Sort of. It's certainly still fun to play, and it's pretty addictive stuff too. However, you can't help wondering whether the programmers could have made a bit more effort to make this different from the other versions. After taking so long to bring it out, we would have at least expected to



see an extra playable track. And, of course, we would have expected to see a great-perfect conversion of the 3DO original. As it stands, this is a poor version of the original game in that the thrills have been poorly recreated, almost as if the programmers just couldn't be bothered.

Still, for all these criticisms, Road Rash still remains a brilliantly playable game that despite having no new features is still fun enough to keep you playing it. And, if you're really into this sort of game, there's no doubt that you'll find it enjoyable. It's just doubtful that anyone would choose this over a racing game like Daytona or Sega Rally or even Need for Speed. Overall, "quite nice" are probably the two words that sum it up best. Can we see some new stuff now please!

SAR



This is the Sierra Nevada course. If you play it through once, you can choose any course you like, although to race well, you'll have to go through them all in order. This is quite an easy course, as there's plenty of open road for all the riders.



NOOO! NOT THE GRANNY!

Now, if SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, we're quite fond of our grannies. In fact, we'd hate to think of them peering around the streets while some bloke tries to run them over with his nasty oily motorcycle. But, that's exactly what happens in Road Rash. And in this game, the grannies and the other pedestrians look really fragile and everything. Now that's not very nice is it? But, after a while, you won't get used to knocking them. Kicking old bags over comes completely declassifying them from your own worst grandma. In the end, you'll just wish that there were more of them to run over, because it certainly beats getting into a fight with another heavy metal hair type.



ROAD RASH



A POTTED HISTORY OF ROAD RASH

ROAD RASH (MEGA DRIVE): The original, and some would say the best version of the game. Bless around the world on your steered up bike, lay a better moshie with your race winnings and beat up another famous competitor in the split screen two player mode.

ROAD RASH 2 (32X): Well, almost the same as Road Rash in principle, but with loads more different races and plenty of new characters. Oh, it's a bit faster too and there are better weapons to pick up than in the original.

ROAD RASH CD: Again, almost the same as both of the previous MegaDrive games, except it was on CD format and had a pretty nice sequence. Still it was pretty good if you were the owner of a Mega-CD.

ROAD RASH 200: The best version of the game on any system. Accompanied by music from real rock stars, a great final end and really, really fast play. This was one of the best games of its time on any system. But since it was on JAG, it didn't really receive as much attention as it should have done. Still the best version, even one year or so on.

ROAD RASH MASTER SYSTEM AND GAME GEAR:

Like most Game Gear games, you can't always tell what's going on with this version of Road Rash, but it had all the right ingredients and everything and you could just about make out the detail on the tiny rides, so we'll forgive it. The Master System is the same as the Game Gear version of course, only it's played on a bigger screen. Not the best way to be introduced to the 88 phenomenon, we have to say.



MEGADRIVE



MASTER SYSTEM



Are these bikers or dudes? Sure! It's a bit hard to tell!



These are your dates. As you can see, they all have rather large eyes.



Yeh, so why don't you blow us. Do! Well, go on the Mute it quick.



It's still a good game. But we would have expected more than a poor conversion of a 300 classic.

graphics	75	overall
sound	82	
playability	80	
stability	74	
		78%



REVIEW

BY	TOM WARDEN
PRICE	£44.99
STYLE	BEAT 'EM UP
RELEASE	JULY

After man had been annihilated, and the last survivors forced back into a state of neolithic existence, a new breed of fearsome hybrid species ruled the earth. The northern hemisphere was dominated by the 'donkeysaurus' and 'theropods', the burning hot central regions were filled with swarms of 'spawweaters', and the icy southern landscape shook with the presence of mighty 'gor mammoth'...

Unfortunately none of these majestic beasts appear in *Primal Rage*. Although the plot of the game does follow similar lines (with man back in a state of barbaric savagery the player chooses between seven different monsters and engages in one-on-one battles for global domination, collecting little human worshippers as they go. When a fighter defeats an opponent they take over their territory and also the

uniquely monstrous resident worshippers, which don't really have a function other than to act as an alternative points

The seven monsters are all equally fierce as they way, but they can be classified as dinosaurs, a bird, and the other two are one new and one old. Each monster has a large range of special attacks they dispense and a couple of status ailments as well. Amazon (a bit like a *Star Wars* character) makes the most of its spines, attacking opponents with wild darts and lightning spines. Sauron (a sort of *Star Wars* dinosaur) has a primal scream and staccato, a roar (a kind of snow ape) can freeze opponents with its breath and summon all sorts of newbies and — well you get the picture. It's in trying to overcome these monsters that *Primal Rage* starts to show its age. The kind of combination you would expect to put together are a

ward and FiddyThe woad isn't really a complaint, if you could customize things to make the moves play better, but you can't and even reconfiguring the

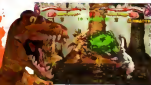
It's been a long time in getting here, but *Primal Rage* has finally found its way onto the Saturn after already appearing on the PlayStation. Is it worth re-examining, or are we looking at ancient history?



gapped makes no difference. What makes things worse is that there's no real depth to the gameplay. Once you've learnt a character's special moves and fatalities, that's most of the fun over and done with. Rather than combatants reacting to each other's strategies, *Primal Rage* is simply a matter of block attack, block attack in a really moribund fashion.

The lack of thought given to the gameplay applies equally to the graphics and animation. *Primal Rage* looks more 16-bit than anything. The graphics style is defined and the monsters moving in a blocky staccato fashion. This all goes to make up a title that should never really have made it onto 32-bit machines anyway at least not in its original incarnation. Admittedly there are some nice touches, like the special scene at the fighters can execute allowing them to sit at the humans watching the proceedings, or the mildly comical nature of some of the moves like Chaos' power puke, but all in all *Primal Rage* belongs back in the less competitive world of the 16-bit machine.

R17



Some demonstrate one of his special attacks, a kind of fire spit. Chaos looks confused. His attacks include a scaring flame.

STRANGE BUT NICE

Primal Rage features some special moves that show a little imagination in contrast with a game like *Primal Rage*. How for example, we can blow up our little beastly foe from an opponent. This doesn't count though any more as it's not, but doesn't count to attack. It's a bit of a bonus thing off with a little bit of fun.



PRIMAL RAGE



Talon shows off his razor-sharp claws to Scorpion, but also gets a little bit of a taste of his own medicine.



Bizard takes on Herlitz. Herlitz seems to be getting the better of things here with his shinning neck bits.



Armador gets back to enjoy Snake's attractive power puffs. Try this one on parties table!



TUG OF WAR

One of the more novel elements in Primal Rage is the tug-of-war mini-game, which you can play in two-player mode. Each player controls a dinosaur, and they have to pull on a rope to win. The amount of damage taken and inflicted depends on the direction and another dinosaur, so who's pulling the better of who. If only two players are playing, this means both dinosaurs suffer.



Will it go this way? Will it go that? It's the question!

Primal Rage is a game that's looking far too dated to deserve the Saturn treatment. With poor graphics and shallow gameplay, the only redeeming feature is sharing the brutality with another player.

graphics	70
sound	68
playability	62
replayability	58

overall

60^x



BY	BMC
PRICE	£39.99
STYLE	SPORTS SIMULATION
RELEASE	JULY/AUGUST 1996

Basketball has traditionally been a barren plain for the gameplay crop. So how does BMC's new settler settle in? Is it set up for success? Or merely unsettling?



Through infinite games and having a very nice friend I was once given the opportunity to watch Magic Johnson play an exhibition match, and it was as. However, only now do I realise that the travel to the UK was affecting his performance. For the Magic Johnson I saw executed any number of like set-ups and performed some incredibly graceful feats of basketballing.

Now, having played Slam 'n Jam, I know that he never really waffles up and down the court like he's got a bag of onions sewn into his shorts and now jumps more than about four inches off the ground. Magic Jivis, and his equally famous (in America) pal Kareem Abdul Jabbar both make personal appearances in BMC's new simulation of the basketballing phenomenon and, as it would appear, neither of them has the natural limb co-ordination they were born with. In fact, at least in the impression I've garnered from observing their digitised counterparts lumber around the court in a manner more akin to a foul decision trip than a professional sportsman.

But hey animation isn't a game (as they say) - NBA Jam isn't exactly the sleekest of sports games and that said by the by lord. Sadly for Slam 'n Jam though, quality do match a game, and this is where BMC's talent endeavours falls short. Every basketball game basically suffers from a similar fault, and that is that the sport itself whilst fascinating to watch is very simple - which often makes for a limited gameplay

scope when translated to computer game form. Some attempts have been made to add more strategy to arcade type conversions, or give more scope to players' abilities but for the most part home basketballing is a case of each team taking turns to run up the court and score. Whilst Slam 'n Jam falls in this

press adequately, it just doesn't make for an exciting game.

All the toppings you'd expect are in place, from the roams of stats through the large-scale licensed players - they just don't really seem that impressive. Even the running commentary (which should still have at least novelty value) is bland. It sounds like your non-basketballing dad is sitting in the room trying to sound cool by making comments about the game, saying things like "Dab, where's the defence?" or "He just be on springs!" when somebody makes a jump. Perhaps unsurprisingly this starts to grate after the 50th hearing.

Of course, as is often the way with these things, it's not all bad. With other home-in players in low Slam 'n Jam is a far more rewarding experience. It's not that the game itself is awful, it's just based around a pretty shoddy premise that requires an element of competition to motivate. But even then Slam 'n Jam is unlikely to keep you occupied for more than a couple of days, even taking the special moves and other tweaks into account.

Given more moves, a more defined strategy element, sharper graphics and cleverer artificial intelligence Slam 'n Jam could have been an exciting product. As it stands it's just an average basketball game of no real interest to anyone without an overriding passion for the sport - and even then it's more hit in. Miss than anything.

R A D



By the way, did anyone see the lady last night? What a working girl, age 4-1. You'd have thought it.



Well, looks like that chap's just scored a goal. Well done, that lad. I bet your old PE teacher's proud of you.



Lord only knows what Cheryl Scribe means. But it's some kind of penalty free throw. In fact, two threes.



Here's a look at these stats.





REVIEW



IT'S THEM BLOKES OFF THE IDIOT BOX!

It's a little bit of a shame that the Sega Saturn version of Slam 'n Jam is not available in the UK, as it's a great game. The Sega Saturn version is the best of the three, as it has the most realistic graphics and the most realistic sound. The Sega Saturn version is the best of the three, as it has the most realistic graphics and the most realistic sound. The Sega Saturn version is the best of the three, as it has the most realistic graphics and the most realistic sound.



SLAM 'N JAM



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Not exactly terrible, but Slam 'n Jam is too limited to convert most gamers to the sport. Better luck next time.

graphics	76
sound	72
playability	70
testability	66

overall **69%**

The expert/line players find in four from Karwan's modest flouting magic



BY	TELFAR
PRICE	£44.99
STYLE	FLIGHT SIM/SHOOTER
RELEASE	AUGUST

If time present and time past are both present in time future, and time future contained in time past, then all time is eternally present. As for Starfighter 3000, it's here today, gone tomorrow!

Yep, it's the future again, this time a further millennium down the line (aka: Things are, as you'd expect, quite different). Human brains pile down the conveyor belts waiting for their corporate genetic identities; some are channelled into the advanced synthetic, others into cyber-technology industries, and the really unlucky ones are mistakenly covered in chocolate and stuffed into boxes of Milk Tray. Thankfully it's not all change though. There's still plenty of war and violence to make your twentieth century feel at home. Obviously, the goalsposts have changed in terms of the enemy - Earthlings now move suited to inter-galactic bicobarling - but for the pilots in the Federal Space Corps, of which you are one, there's still plenty of action.

As part of the Corp. It's your job to ensure the galaxy remains a place of relative order and security. At present it's being threatened by rebels armed to the teeth with fighter squadrons, huge cannons and a variety pack of assault missiles. Fortunately being part of the wealthy establishment means given control of a Predator Mark IV attack vehicle which comes complete with its own range of weapons and defence systems.

Starfighter 3000 is at heart a shoot 'em up, although it's fair to say it has a fine pair of flight simulator lungs as well. This is at first a bit off putting. The controls are incredibly sensitive - a light tap of the joystick capable of sending your vehicle into curved orbits about the ether. Once you get used to this control method things get far less frustrating, although now and then there are still times when you wish it was a little less touchy. The flight sim element is confined by the way in which the action kicks off: your primary mission being simply to dock your plane in the wilderness, some thing that proves far

more difficult than you'd think. After this you are given a number of simple missions to earn your wings before you take off into outer space to take on the enemy in greater numbers.

As Starfighter 3000 progresses it becomes more like a straight forward shoot 'em up: the player uses the map to locate targets and then making the most of their air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles in an effort complete their objectives. There are plenty of pick-ups in the way of extra energy and weapons, and a neat bonus system. Pick up the icons left after something has been destroyed and they tick up at the bottom of the screen in the fashion of a fruit machine - if you get a winning sequence you earn an upgrade for your ship.

The graphics in Starfighter 3000 are actually a bit disappointing. Everything looks very polygoned, enemies exploding in blocks, buildings all blocky triangles and squares and even the earth itself exploding like a checkerboard. If I was feeling generous I'd say it's all part of the game's style, but I'm not so I say instead that it all looks a bit too much like the 3DO form which it was converted.

More than anything Starfighter 3000 suffers from being boring. Technically it's proficient enough and the difficulty level means it's no pushover, but the action plods along with an annoying predictability: the missions varying very little from one another. As a shoot 'em up it lacks pace and easy accessibility to make it great, and as a flight sim it lacks depth. As a result, Starfighter 3000 floats about tepidly in between.

808



There's plenty of new and majestic explosions in Starfighter 3000, not all of it like the hellish reality of blood mixed with metal and bone and the screaming! Oh the screaming!

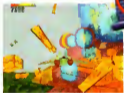


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STARFIGHTER 3000



Our valiant hero ventures into the land of the floating croissants here... but horror! Where's the chocolate coating? Absolute bliss!



Starfighter 3000 suffers from a bit of an identity crisis - not really about 'em up, not really flight sim - and the resultant action is a tad menodacious. Not a disaster by any means but lacking in thrills.

STAND BY YOUR WINGMAN

Players in Starfighter 3000 get a chance to order about some of their fellow robot pilots. One of the options lets you position the squadron's formation, adapting it to whatever situation - all together for a spot of carpet bombing, or split up to take out enemy fighters. If things get too dangerous you can always go and cover behind the rearship which will protect you with the old laser blast in times of extreme panic.



graphics	72
sound	70
playability	73
lastability	69

overall

72%

you buy it.

£3.49 for three evenings

**BLOCKBUSTER
VIDEO**



BY	US GOLD
PRICE	£19.99
STYLE	SPORTS SIMULATION
RELEASE	JULY

Oh they're football game crazy, they're football game mad, those football games they have taken away the **little bit of sense they had** – they're software houses, and they've got yet another soccer title out. So **what's the score?**

US Gold have got the right idea about licensing. At the moment everyone in the country has become strangely football obsessive, but by the time you read this the European championships will be over and all those games which depended upon the topicality of the event will be languishing in post-licensing deprivation. However, USG's (probably extensively piloted) license will still have months to run. Or weeks. But anyway, they certainly score points for enforcement longevity if nothing else. Although, thinking about it, if England actually won the Euro tournament, all the Euro games will sell for about a hundred million years. They'll be souvenirs.

However, here at Saturn Mag we're not arsed about the merchandising big-business business, eh no, we're the Untouchables of the games critique community, not to be swayed by flashy names and large budgets. So other than to say it's a great, to-die-for idea to market your football game, we'll shut up about it. What you'll be wanting to know, minus the little gaming braves that you are, is what it's like. Well, it's like almost any of the other football games the Saturn has spawned in recent weeks. It's got twenty-two players and numerous camera angles. In fact, you are able to select the angle of elevation of your camera, how it swings around the field (or not) and all sorts, meaning there should be a favourite camera angle for everyone, except really really hard to please people. The distance the camera is positioned away from the field dramatically alters the amount of the pitch you can see at any one time – and incidentally the size of the players too, from large and highly visible to tiny, almost Sensible Soccer-esque tinyness.

Indeed, Olympic Soccer is heavy on options throughout. At every point during the game you're able to access numerous options screens and change the rules and parameters of the game to suit your tastes. They're presented by way of a rather natty revolving football soccer wheel of rotating options.

based menus. This makes a pleasant change from the usual text highlighting action and is indicative of the attention lavished upon making Olympic Soccer look professional.

The same prohibitive attitude to choice provides the play modes too. There's Arcade mode, where your selected team fights through from the most feeble contenders to the top ranking players in a knock out style. There's two player head to head, which is self explanatory. There's also the Olympic mode, which splits all the contenders into groups and plays them off in the same way as the real Olympics. You can invite a second player to join you on this quest.

The game itself is a side on view affair, with slightly more than the usual number of moves. Along with passing, shooting and chip ping Olympic players are masters of dives, jumps and backheels, all of which are especially useful as defensive manoeuvres. It takes a bit of getting used to how the players operate (and the teams for that matter, all of which are different) but once you've got the hang of things, Olympic Soccer proves itself to be a speedy and challenging conversion of the popular grass sport.

The trouble is that it's arrived a little late in the day, after the mighty Power Soccer and the ever mightier Euro '98, along with a slew of less prestigious titles. Olympic Soccer is certainly above the average standard for the crowd, but the biggest likelihood is that if you're after a soccer game you'll already have scooped one of the big two. Whilst Olympic Soccer does stand up in terms of playability it's hardly the most technically impressive or innovative title in the arena, and that goes against it in the current gaming environment. It also makes the now standard mistake of dragging a famous cam model in to sample about three different phrases, which are then repeated robotically throughout the match until you inevitably tain them off.

Whilst I don't think anyone who bought Olympic Soccer would be disappointed with it, I do have a feeling that most gamers would rather go for Euro '98 – not merely because it looks better, but because there's more to it. However, this is a fine effort from US Gold and let's hope they find more use for this excellent game engine. Care it a go, but compare it to a couple of competitors before making a purchasing decision.



The players like to celebrate as a goal. However, teams about the pitch, leading to the license to grasp the Goalkeeper Grip on his distinctive breast!





(MONEY) Too right, the ref's hair is pretty neat, the balls like someone's melted butter all over the scalp.
(LEFT) This might look like some drunken player falling over while in possession but it is in fact an overboard kick.

LET'S SEE THAT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN...

Mix to many sports games, and fighting games, and racing games—look, nearly all games these days—Olympic Soccer is equipped with its very own replay facility. This may be turned on or off at any point before or during a game, and once working produces an instant replay of every goal scored. If that isn't enough for you, you can also pause the game and call up a replay of the last few seconds of action whenever you want. Doing this also allows you to alter the camera angle and speed of the replay, and rewind it as many times as you like, if you're really into it.



OLYMPIC SOCCER



A shower of crimson blood follows in the wake of Rivalry, down of tackle hit. Not really, it's a player indicator.

A very decent soccer game indeed, but Olympic Soccer is up against some of the stiffest competition the genre has ever offered. Good fun certainly, but perhaps not the best example on the market.

graphics	76	overall	85%
sound	79		
playabil-	86		
lastabil-	85		

BY	JYC
PRICE	£24.95
STYLE	SPORTS SIM
RELEASE	OCT. NOV.

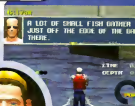
They said it couldn't be done. They said it made about as much sense as a post-pub interview with Oliver Reed. They laughed and jeered at the idea of a fishing sim. But by thunder they were wrong!



Fishing happens to be one of the most popular pastimes in Britain. Believe it or not, many a soul finds a touch of Zenic quietude sitting on a river bank casting away, or wading through a velvety stream, lost to the hypnotic ebb and flow of water. In fact, for many, catching a fish simply adds a little peripheral excitement to the day. Obviously a fishing sim can't be quite as pastoral and serene as this, and Sea Bass Fishing fills in the scenic gaps by putting the player in the role of champion angler — well, potential champion at least. Rather than a brook tucked away deep in the Shires, the fishing takes place along estuaries or out at sea, with competitors clambering after boats and captains to take them to the renowned fishing hotspots.

You can forget things like maggots or fly fishing as well, because in the hunt for the elusive Sea Bass, players make use of lures instead. A lure, in case you don't know is a meta-bait that looks like a fish and is designed quite literally to lure a fish. Using a lure involves mastering a technique where, rather than simply leaving the bait in the water and waiting for a bite, you have to constantly reel it in to attract the lively fish.

There are lots of other things the perceptive angler in us want to take into account as well like the weather conditions — rainy weather for example makes the fish very active — and the tide which affects the number of fish likely to be drifting about. Having to learn all this stuff as well as the various techniques involved in bringing a fish in, are what makes Sea Bass Fishing fun to play at the outset, even if you're not



catching much, it's kind of like learning the rules of American foot ball by playing John Madden's.

Once you feel fairly happy with your technique there's the choice to start playing in the tournaments. For rookies there's the amateur tournament which only lasts over a day and involves a more moderate standard of angling. If that starts to get too easy then it's time to move on to the top pro tournament which is spread out over three days. For those experts who can reel enough sea bass in to feed the five thousand, the Sea Bass Classic tournament will decide which is the master angler.

Before you head off to one of the many destinations on offer, there's a decision to be made regarding who's going to captain your boat. There are three captains to choose from and to be honest, I didn't really notice a great deal of difference between them apart from the rather obvious fact that one looks like Captain Mordaye, one resembles Sarah Bryant from W2 and the other looks like Kojak. They act as advisers — telling you the best spot to cast your line, suggesting different lures and forecasting on the kind of fish you can expect to be coming about.

Despite the fact that the sea bass is the fish in

focus, there are loads of other types out there if you fancy catching them: things like mullet, tank, cod, yellow tail and lots of fish peculiar to Japanese waters alone. Once you haul one in it's weighed

and measured by your captain and goes down in your log book. You can even fish for dolphins although before everyone moans a protest, I should add that it's a dolphin fish rather than the flapper variety.

One thing should be stressed when talking about a game like this though: it is rather limited fun base it is likely to have. Once you've cast away there isn't a great deal to fixate your eyes on, and what there is isn't exactly spectacular. Quite a lot of people will look at this game and think it's a bit of a novel waste of time, in much the same fashion as some people would despise golfing games (the control method in Sea Bass Fishing actually involves some similitude) or RPGs. I thought it had a certain charm though, especially considering the fact that, after playing it, I felt I'd learnt something about fish and fishing. In addition to this, I was impressed by the thoughtful way the programmers handled what has to be one of the most uncompromising sports in terms of its incompatibility with the console.



By moving the reel from one side to the other as you reel it in, you stand a better chance of getting a quick bite.



PLENTY MORE FISH IN THE SEA

You know what you get when you're in the street and say, "fish." The sea is a lot of places, but *Sea Bass* has you in the most couple of ways, taking them through the four parts of the game, as well as:

SEA BASS

This is the one that everyone wants. They tend to hang out near sandy beaches or the river mouth.



DATSU

These fish, peculiar to Japanese waters, are normally found in the shallows along the coast.



DOLPHIN

Pretty unusual fish, this one, and catching it involves using a unique rod. Difficult to catch, I tell you.



MACKEREL

Mackerel tend to swim just about any where and at any depth, but near rocks is a good spot to look.



MULLET

While this fish doesn't feed on small fish, it's still stupid enough to go for a lure.



THIS IS ONE WE HIGHLIGHT. CHECK. SPENDING THE POINTS.

Choosing which area to fish affects the kind of fish you're likely to catch. The area so fish map that isn't highlighted is for professionals.



IT'S THE COLOR OF A FISH THAT DETERMINES THE KIND OF FISH YOU'LL CATCH.

(Above) These are your lures. Their colors, size and propensity to attract fish or sink will determine the kind of fish you'll catch.

Sea Bass FISHING



That's right, after giving up a life to the San Francisco police force, Fujiki becomes a fish game of the most unusual order.



This certainly won't appeal to everyone, but for those of you with an eye turned to the searoom and the Nizarre, *Sea Bass* Fishing could be just your prime fillet!

CATCHING A FISH

So just how is it done then, catching a fish? The central-mapped screen is a 100% in compass view. If the power meter on the bottom right of the screen is used to rotate the distance of the cast and also the tension on the line. Once you hook a fish you want a long degree of tension on the line to stop the fish wriggling out of the line. But, be warned, if there's too much tension the line will snap. You might want to use additional techniques for especially troublesome fish like reeling the net down to prevent the fish from blowing through it, or to release the hook. Why exactly this works I don't know but who cares so long as that fish makes it for the net.



It's often worth checking up on the reels to see where other fishermen are out and about and whether there's better catches elsewhere. But here (left) - was the rumour goes about that there's big fish to be had, it's a riot, I tell you.



graphics	72	overall
sound	75	
playability	80	
lastability	81	

80%



BY	EMPIRE
PRICE	£79.95
STYLE	PINBALL SIM
RELEASE	AUGUST

I

t's a debate that rages along the annals of the most prestigious oak-panelled corridors. It's caused raucous fights between eminent political overlords in pipe-smoked studies. And it's the reason the world still lives under the shadow of nuclear annihilation. That's right - pinball sims: genuine console experience or a bit of a con?

Whichever side you stand on the pinball sim debate, one thing's for sure and that's a pinball sim's inevitably static quality. If you want to make a pinball game as realistic as possible there's not really much you can do in the way of alternative gameplay. You can hardly expect special attack moves, virtual racing sequences or maze cart levels. Where pinball is concerned, what you see is very much what you get.

This is true of Pro Pinball more than most other pinball sims, featuring as it does simply the one table. Whether this was a bit of an oversight where the programmers were concerned, or whether it was because Pro Pinball started out as a PC title (where you could probably update and change the table with add-on disks), is largely irrelevant. For Saturn owners, one table it is and unfortunately the game suffers a bit as a result. With something like True

Pinball the player at least has the chance to master four different tables. This however is the only real criticism I have of Pro Pinball. Pinball might even argue that it's a bit of an unfair one considering the fact

Well what do you want me to say eh? It's a pinball sim isn't it. I mean, what can I say? It's pinball, the well-known game involving a ball and flippers, and things that flash and ping. And err, well, a table, oh yea, a table. That's it. Pinball...errr

that playing pinball generally consists of only one table anyway. But then, if I'd wanted pinball as realistic as that I'd probably opt for the thing itself.

The plot - or rather the theme - in Pro Pinball involves intrigue on the internet, the title screen revealing a dark mysterious woman, eyes full of tyrannical destiny and hands probing at what looks like giant spannered sockets. It's presumably her sly tones on the voice-over telling you about that extra bonus ball you just got or that the game's over. And to satisfy other meanings in the subtitle, The Web, there's also a spider knocking about in there some where. But when it comes to the crunch this is classic pinball stuff with the player trying to get the ball over ramps, along wire rails, through tunnels and rebounding off bumpers.

There are bonus games which are displayed on the mock dot matrix screen at the back of the table, and some of them are good fun. For example, there's one where you have to use the flipper buttons to explode approaching mines but avoid destroying the numbers that also float towards you. There's also other stuff like sequences involving multi-ball action where three or four balls go rolling round the table enabling you to really tick up the points.

The most fundamentally important thing with pinball games is naturally a realistic sense of verba on the ball and as far as that's concerned there are no complaints with Pro Pinball. This, coupled with the right kind of sensitivity on the flippers, means players have the chance to perfect their skills, but can still suffer a spot of bad luck from the erratic movement of the ball.

All in all this is a decent enough interpretation of the game itself, let down only by the exclusion of different tables to vary the action a little.

R.D.D.



FACT 1

In 1979 a game by Williams called 'Flash' was the first pinball machine to use electronic sound effects. Billy's pinball game, Xenon, was the first that talked, featuring the voice of Suzanne Godd. What she's famous for is anyone's guess.

Ever since I was a young boy, I've played the other ball...and for that ball I refuse to do it! I will not be so predictable! Instead I'd like to talk about how pop culture influences, so I guess you'd put it, a definitive creative in...

FACT 2

In 1962, the company, Bally, introduced "flapper flippers" which closed together preventing the ball from leaving the playing area. Rather unsurprisingly they quickly lost their popularity and were scrapped after a few years.

Pro Pinball The Web



Pinball: the first choice coin for many a child wanting school, but don't look off school yet? These R.E. lessons will prove invaluable when you finally have to submit to a job.



It's Bruce Forster and John Norris, or The Jam and Cliff Little flippers respectively.

The bells, the buzzers, the digital A&D that's just in my head you hear!

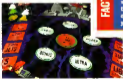
FACT 3

In 1942 pinball was declared illegal in New York City, and it was not rescinded until 1976. Likewise, pinball was not legalized in Los Angeles until 1972. Exactly what the reasons are for this remains unclear. Maybe the game was considered too addictive, which is kind of hilarious when you think of some of the afflictions you get in New York and LA today.

TABLE VIEW



Oh gee! Choose which angle you'd like to play Pro Pinball from according to your bright Desorb + Inv, out, well, pass the rest.



FACT 4

Whiffs and Whooper, that's what the first pinball games were called back in 1931. They weren't exactly pinball games as we know them, they were actually called bagatelle games, the ball dropping into holes to score points, but they shared the same basic characteristics.



graphics	77	overall
sound	80	
playability	70	
costability	68	

70%



GUARDIAN HEROES

PLAYER'S GUIDE

The fabulous **Guardian Heroes** is now available to purchase, and once **snugly spinning in your Saturn**, you too can experience the **manic wonder of this classic** from the collective genius at Treasure. In one **last ditch attempt to hack through to the forests of Thrangor**, **DAVID HODGSON** presents all the **cheats and tips** found to date.

HERO CHEATS APLENTY!!

The Japanese version of the game (but in no other version, sadly) boasts numerous features and gaming delights for your heightened pleasure: let's run through some of them, shall we? Firstly you've got the debug mode - which is activated by highlighting the top option (the dig switch) and pressing A+Ctrl together. As if by magic, a new Debug option appears: jing! at the bottom of the screen.

Enter the new screen, and all of the options are in English (sorry for those without Japanese script knowledge), and from this screen, many fine options can be tweaked. All our actors are available in versus mode, a level select appears in story mode - you can fix out your character in story mode and the collision definition boxes can be shown by pausing the game and pressing L. Want to refill your energy? Then press X+Y+Z during story mode.

Finally, here's a stage skip during story mode:

- Forward one stage: R+Start
- Forward two stages: R+Ac+Start
- Forward three stages: R+B+Start
- Forward four stages: R+C+Start
- Back one stage: R+Start
- Back two stages: R+Ac+Start
- Back three stages: R+B+Start
- Back four stages: R+C+Start



UK SECRETS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED!

There's a series of interesting little tidbits to discover in the English version of the game too! First of all, try feeding the hidden Coliseum: the finest way to build up party experience.

From stage one, take the third or fourth choice, begin the level and turn right as soon as possible, jump to the distant plane and wander until you reach a small wooden signpost. This will take you to the Coliseum where loads of hardened troops can be culled!



ALL FOR ONE

A total of 45 characters are available to be selected, and you'll have to find every single level in order to save them all to your memory. After a mammoth playlist you'll soon find most of the heroes, but three characters may still elude you: Super Han, Selena and The Undead Hero. Super Han becomes available after you've tramped through the first level, taken the third choice on the second level and the second choice of path. Find the Undead warrior with one arm and kill him! After this, you can pick up his weapon, turning Han into a huge hulking brute! Next is the sexy Selena who becomes part of the team after you've completed the game for the first time, and the Undead chap can only be controlled after you've found everybody else! Happy hunting!

SUPER HAN

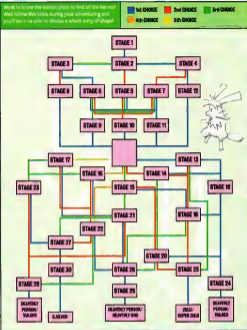
Wielding a huge two-handed sword, the super-up version of Han can plough through any foe!

THE UNDEAD HERO

From the lower vaults of the crypt of terror, this agent of death rises to help our heroes!

SELENA

Striding into the fray clad in bright crimson armour, she is a fast and powerful amazon queen!



5	5	5	5	5	1	6	1	26	3	11	
HAN	SWIFT	BO	OLIVIER	MONIKA	SELENA	UNDEAD HERO	SUPER HAN	CARRON	WILSON	LUFTY	DEAD-EYE GUNNER
7	25	12	30	12	12	12	18	4	7	2	8
ZOLA	SUPER-ZOLA	FRAYER	FRAYER	ERINSON WARRIOR	ERINSON GHOST	ERINSON NINJA	ERINSON DISTANCE FIGHTER	ERINSON MAGIC WARRIOR	MURPHY HALL WARRIOR	SKELETON	ZOMBIE
25	5	24	8	24	26	24	5	7	7	7	7
RED-EYE FIGHTER	WOLF	SCORCH	BOB	LUPER	GANGBANG	CYCLOPS	BOG	WORMHOLE GUNNER	DRILL GUNNER	ROCKET GUNNER	BEAR GUNNER
7	1	8	25	8	26	24	28	29	F	2	*
LUFTY GUNNER	NACHO	SAMMY	QUANTUM	ONE-ARMED WARRIOR	LUFTY	LUFTY BOB	HEAVENLY	HEAVENLY	SELECTABLE CHARACTERS ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE GAME.	THE STAGE AT WHICH THE CHARACTER CAN BE FOUND. (E.G. Stage 2)	SELECTABLE WHEN ALL THE OTHER CHARACTERS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED.

Tips

WWF WRESTLEMANIA

Each character can perform some accessible multiple-hit combos, but they take some learning. Here are some of the best for each character. When your COMBO bar is full up, you must first get your opponent in a headlock and tap Forward twice. Then press the first button in the combination to start it off, and tap the rest in the sequence repeatedly. As soon as the second move begins, start pressing the next button repeatedly. Keep doing this until the sequence is complete. It takes some practice, but it's well worth it. Also, to get a character selected for you at random, press Up and Start together on the character select screen.

KEY

PP FORWARD, P PUSH, FK FORWARD KICK, K KICK

ANDY COOPER / ANDRE THE GREAT

16-HIT	K, P, PP, PK, K
25-HIT	PK, K, PP
21-HIT	PP, P, PP, PK, K, PP
24-HIT	PK, PK, PK, PP



THE UNDERTAKER

16-HIT	K, PK, PP, P
17-HIT	PK, K, PP, PK, PK
17-HIT	PK, K, P, PP, PK
17-HIT	PK, K, P, PK, K



SHAWN MICHAELS

16-HIT	K, PK, PP, P
17-HIT	P, PP, PK, K, Block
17-HIT	P, PP, PK, P, Block
23-HIT	K, PK, PP, P, Block



Once you've performed the biggest combo of the hit - 24 hits in a row! It's good to look at end boss loads of damage.

RAZOR RAMON

16-HIT	K, PK, PP, K
17-HIT	PK, K, P, PP, PK, Block



RYAN REYNOLDS / RYAN BUCKLEW

16-HIT	P, PP, PK, K, P
23-HIT	PP, PK, PK, P
23-HIT	P, PK, K, PP



DOOM

16-HIT	PK, PP, K, K
16-HIT	PP, PK, K, P, PP, PK
16-HIT	PK, PP, PK, K



TRIPLE H / HUNT

16-HIT	P, PP, PK, K
16-HIT	P, PP, PK, PK
16-HIT	PK, PP, P
16-HIT	PK, PP, PK, PK, P



YOKOZUNA

16-HIT	PK, K, P, PP, PK
16-HIT	P, PP, PK, K, PP



Try it before

Rent any latest release from just

GUNGRIFFON

These cheats should all be entered on the title screen when the "Press Start" message is showing.

To remove the auto-aiming and the target marker, press Left, Right, C, A, Start.

To make the game harder by increasing the power of the enemy attacks, press Down, C, C, A, Start.

To make the radar only show friendly targets, press B, B, B, Down, C, Start.



OPERATION BLACKFIRE

Enter all of these cheats on the title screen.

For full fuel and energy, press L, A, Z, Y, A, Down, Down. Then press Start twice during the game to refill.

To get a level skip, press and hold these buttons in order: C, B, A, Up, L. Then release them in this order: A, C, L, Up. Now when playing, hold A, B, C, and Up, then press L to skip a stage.

For invisibility, press and hold A, B, and C, then release them in this order: C, B, A. Now press B, A, B, Y then hold X. Now press Up, then hold Down and release X.



BAKU BAKU ANIMAL

One of the options not usually available in the UK version of the game is the league mode. To access it, go to the title screen and press B, A, C, Up, B, A, C, Up, then press Start. The new option will now appear. The only problem with it is that it hasn't been translated from Japanese and is very difficult to understand. Another added bonus for the UK version only is that there's a hidden dance remix of the Baku Baku Animal music on the game CD! To hear it, go to the Saturn's CD player and play track 23.



Baku Baku pilots need worry to save. And use these cheats to save yourself.

ARCADE TIPS

MANX TT SUPERBIKE

This is one of the best cheats you've ever seen in a video game! It lets you play the game as usual, only you're all racing on sheep (instead of superbikes). Follow these instructions carefully to access it.

1. Go to the transmission select screen.
2. Press Up shift twice, then Down shift twice.
3. Rock the bike left then right.
4. Pull the brake, then accelerate.

You'll hear a sound and when you start you'll be racing on a bleating sheep!



The laugh's loss of the Japanese hardware chose pumps the balls to the moon!



Unfortunately, the League Mode hasn't been translated from Japanese and is therefore a bit difficult to understand. Unless you're Japanese, of course.

you buy it.

£3.49 for three evenings

BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO

ART NOW

GAME OF THE MONTH

BY	SEGA
PRICE	£59.99
RATING	★★★★

GUNGRIFFIN

We've been raving about this title for months now, and when it was first released in Japan, it seemed as though Sega Europe were a little reluctant to give it a UK release, probably due to its niche appeal. But, someone down at their HQ has obviously had a change of heart, as it's been designed a release this month (albeit in a somewhat rushed style). Anyway, if you fancy the idea of climbing inside a huge robot then smashing seven shades out of another, equally huge robot opponent, then this could be your ticket to the gaming version of these sumo wrestler fighting things that you see at the fair.

Luckily there's nothing like this already released on the Saturn and as well as being a pretty original title for the machine, it's also one of the best games of its type around. The graphics are really impressive, with huge clunking robots and spectacular over the top explosions. There's plenty of missions to complete, each with a different terrain and set of tactics to be used and each with a different array of robots.

In fact, the only thing that lets Gungriffin down is its slightly awkward control method, although after a couple of plays even this becomes much easier to handle. Anyway, the game's brilliant atmosphere more than makes up for the slightly cumbersome controls, and when you launch explosions on to the enemy you really feel like you're causing some damage.

Gungriffin isn't for everyone, especially people who want to be able to get into a game immediately and can't be bothered learning a new set of controls. But if you can persevere for even a couple of goes you'll soon get used to it, and after that all you'll be bothered about is the size of your explosions! Absolutely unmissable for any strategy or complete carnage freak, and pretty essential for everyone else too.



It might look a bit too wide like that, but it plays well!



Being a mech-warrior is a full-time job you know. Even when we're all tucked up in bed the night vision keeps it busy.



Gungriffin: The new from Sega Saturn! Beautiful, so big! 100% And very busy! It is too.



Try it before

Rent any latest release from just



Frank Thomas

BIG HURT BASEBALL



BY	ACCLAIM
PRICE	£44.99
RATING	★ ★



It's America's senior sports. And Big Hurt!

Well, this is surely evidence enough that summer does indeed exist. Yes, you can be sure that over the next couple of months there will be tennis, cricket and baseball games released on everything. But, there's a bit of a problem with baseball games in that despite releasing dozens of videogame titles over the last couple of years, no one really cares much about baseball in this country. So, where American fans of the sport go bananas over the authentic players and realistic atmosphere, us Brits remain decidedly unaroused about the whole thing.

But, despite the lack of a real baseball following over here, a few baseball games have done marginally well, just because the gameplay is pretty good. The problem is though that even if you use loads of fancy graphics and multiple camera angles, the meat and potatoes of the title is still just hitting a ball around a field.

Which is exactly the problem with Big Hurt Baseball. The game plays well enough and it's even really good fun in two-player mode – but there's nothing on offer that's different from any other baseball game around. So if you've got one, you've got them all. But if you haven't you might just be interested in this.

Operation BLACKFIRE

BY	VIRGIN
PRICE	£39.99
RATING	★ ★ ★

After the sterling success of Firestorm at the beginning of the year, it was only a matter of time before everyone else got their helicopter titles out on the shelves. But surprisingly enough, Blackfire was released way before Firestorm. It was out in the States last year, although it was a bit of a low key release by Sega of America. Anyhow, Virgin have snapped it up for the UK and have probably released it at just about the right time – after all there's not much else like this being released at the moment. Luckily, the game's not bad either. Your mission is to, yes you've guessed it, save the world from a potential alien invasion! And to do this, you have to blow tons of enemies away. Bear in mind though, that when we say tons, we mean tons. At times it seems a little unfair that there's quite so many things to kill, and in this case this is what makes the game so damned annoying – the difficulty seems irrelevant when there's so many things to destroy. In addition to this, the graphics, while perfectly adequate, aren't exactly awe inspiring and even look a bit messy in places.

Overall, this will serve you well enough for a short time, but it's not something you'd come back to time and time again. Unless you love helicopter games that is.



you buy it.

£3.49 for three evenings



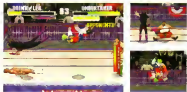
OUT NOW



BY	ACCLAIM
PRICE	£44.99
RATING	★★★★

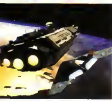
Yeah! The pentameter stars of the sporting world have returned yet again to nature glory in the gaming world! Dressed in little more than spandex bikinis and ridiculous hairdos, the powdered posse have dominated the carry-on style of game for years, and the new, updated version is no different! Of course, with this being on the future and everything, the graphics are loads better than they ever were before and the moves, although carried out in the same way also seem more spectacular. As you'd expect, all the old WWF favourites can be found in the game and there's the usual choice between tournaments one-on-ones and tag team play. And, while this isn't going to have heat 'em up fans leaping around the room in uncontrolled ecstasy anyone who's up for a bit of fan rather than totally serious button-pounding will find this brilliant.

It's a shame that more human players can't be controlled at once (two players are the maximum allowed) but WWF still stands up as a brilliant title that, despite a ridiculous licence, is surprisingly playable.



BY	EA
PRICE	£39.99
RATING	★★

Shock Wave Assault



Beh! There. My name is Dr. Khan and I'm afraid what you're looking at here is what's known as the profession as a "time dater".



Alien games are certainly flavour of the month at the moment, although it's probably fair to say that the Saturn hasn't had quite as many alien titles as other machines. Anyway, Shockwave Assault is the usual story of alien invasion on some far-off planet or other, where an expert team have been drafted in to restore peace and order through huge amounts of violence. And yes, that does mean that you get a fair scattering of movie style interactivity, and as usual, it's completely useless and pretty cheesy too.

As for the gameplay, well, it's hard to say really. This did well on the 3DO, but maybe that's because they didn't have many of these types of games around at the time or something. It's certainly not much good on the Saturn. All you ever seem to do is roam around barren landscapes, targeting tripod type enemies then blowing them away. There's not enough stuff to kill to make this a meeting adventure and the game's atmosphere is incredibly dull.

BY	EA
PRICE	£39.99
RATING	★★★

THE NEED FOR SPEED



Need for Speed was certainly a huge success when it was released on the 3DO a couple of years back. Why, people even went out and bought a 3DO simply for the privilege of playing this game alone! But, people have become a bit more cynical since then - the idea of splashing out on a machine simply for the pleasures of playing one game has really gone. But, luckily this doesn't matter too much, as EA have decided to release this across most of the "next generation" formats (apart from the Jaguar for some strange reason) and after a storming start on the PlayStation, they're hoping for big things with the Saturn release.

And, to some extent, that's just what they've got. After all, this is pretty much the same release that was seen on the 3DO. But despite standing up well in the gameplay department, the graphics are beginning to look a bit dated. Actually maybe that's a bit unfair. It's probably more to do with the fact that other racing titles such as Sega Rally look so good that everything else has a hard time measuring up. Fans of the death-driving sim approach will still get a kick out of this, but for most it's a bit too old-hat.



COIN OPERATED

A couple of months ago, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE unveiled AM2's new Virtua Fighter 3 character, the Japanese dancer, Aoi. This month, Yu Suzuki reveals yet another character that will appear in this awesome game! Who is he? Well, pay attention, everyone...

The head of Sega's top R&D department AM2, Yu Suzuki, has been playing a game of cat and mouse with the VF-hungry punters of the world! Five months ago, he presented the world the latest addition to the VF family, Aoi Umesokoji. She was very impressive with her traditional Japanese dance routines and realistic Aikido-esque moves, but not even this kimonoe-dan lass will prepare you for the latest VF fighter. Brace yourself as Sega Saturn magazine presents you the Sega equivalent of Tekken's Ganryu, Taka Arashi! Taka Arashi is indeed a land ass of gigantic, almost unbelievable proportions. So what do we know about this mysterious Mr. Arashi? Read on.

MOVE OVER E.HONDA, HERE COMES TAKA ARASHI!!

Taka Arashi was unveiled at the Tokyo Toy show where Mr. Suzuki went on stage to present his latest creation to the press and the public. When questioned as to why AM2 chose to use sumo as opposed to other disciplines that the VF series hasn't covered (like Shaolin), his answer was quite straightforward. In the previous Virtua Fighter games, the team used mainly the Chinese arts as a base for the characters fighting styles as such as the Mantis Fist and Evoclean. And AM2 felt that it was about time that a few Japanese arts were introduced into the series, hence the new contenders utilizing Aikido and Sumo. Sumo has been used in a style in previous games like Street Fighter and Tekken but they never really conveyed the guboy and indeed very strong techniques of the sport.

AM2 promise that Arashi will be quite malleable, but obviously not on par with the likes of the loyal ubikings. If AM2 manage to live up to the standards of their drama, VF's is going to be a game of unmatched realism! Of course, we'll be keeping you updated on this title and next month, should be able to bring you some in-game shots of the new character! Stay tuned, fat faces!



Yu Suzuki demonstrates how his new character will move. Probably.



RUMOURS

The latest rumour from Japan that's almost been confirmed is the fact that Dural is indeed the mother of the VF's resident ring boy Reg. AM2 haven't denied or confirmed it so far, probably is true and the other rumour is that we will finally know the truth about Dural in the forthcoming Virtua Fighter 4!



CHARACTER PROFILE

NAME:	TAKA ARASHI
NATIONALITY:	JAPANESE
SEX:	MALE
AGE:	27
HEIGHT:	2m20
WEIGHT:	250kg
DISCIPLINE:	SUMO WRESTLING
OCCUPATION:	PRO SUMOTOR



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And that, my gaming chums, is your lot. But already your eager eyes turn to the future. 'Saturn Oracle' you say, 'what lies ahead for us in the pages of your illustrious publication?' Well, looking into the great spiky Sonic ball, we see loads on **FIGHTING VIPERS**, **DARK SAVIOUR** and **SONIC X-TREME**. Stuff on **BUG TOO!**, and some news on the brilliant new RPG, **TORICO**, as well as a preview of the famous PC title, **COMMAND AND CONQUER**.



Agent of News,

I have just received word from headquarters that I am too pre-occupied immediately to Plus X. This involves reserving a copy of **SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE**. Should you do that for me I can guarantee your safety. However, should you refuse, I cannot be held responsible for a sudden twilight kidnapping followed by a bizarre ride in the back of a Lotus driving deep into the heart of Siberia.

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Be there, or be a four sided shape with 90 angles!

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